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# KILN KOUNTRY



**Kiln, Mississippi**

HOME OF BRETT FAVRE  
AND OTHER SUCCESSFUL ATHLETES  
AND THE LARGEST LUMBERMILL IN THE SOUTH

**DAN A. ELLIS**







08/31/15

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*Brett Favre*  
*Dan Ellis*

# KILN KOUNTRY



HOME OF BRETT FAVRE AND OTHER  
SUCCESSFUL ATHLETES AND THE  
LARGEST SAWMILL IN THE SOUTH

DAN A. ELLIS

Hancock County Library System  
312 Hwy 90  
Bay St Louis, Ms 39520







## **Foreword**

The place known as “The Kiln” was originally settled by French and Spanish colonials before it was part of the United States. The first family to claim title in the area was probably Jean Baptiste Ladner II who settled on the eastern bank of the Jourdan River. Ladner’s nephew, Charles “Charlot” Favre settled on adjoining land to the south. John Cuevas II married Ladner’s daughter, Eugenie, and settled on an adjoining claim to the northeast. Jean Baptiste Nicaise married Ladner’s daughter, Genevieve, and settled on an adjoining claim to the northwest. The Nicaise claim was north of the Jordan River and includes the eastern half of Kiln. It is now known as section 38, the site where the old Kiln School and Annunciation Church stand today.

These families, along with the Morin/Moran family, continued to intermarry and became what I call the “Allied Families.” They were all interrelated and some of them had Choctaw Indian ancestry. They were very prolific and their descendants spread out from these original claims into the adjoining countryside long before the coming of other Americans. The Allied families lived off the land and initially had little contact with their neighbors. The influx of American culture into the region began about the time of the war of 1812 and the battle of New Orleans. It intensified with the coming of the timber industry. The culture that had been rural and mostly Catholic began to interact and intermarry with a culture that was mostly Protestant and farmers or tradesmen. The result was a uniquely diverse society. It went through a period of rapid growth and then faced a dramatic economic decline with the closing of the timber mills. The long leaf pine forests that



had stood for centuries had been cut and shipped away in a single generation. Kiln became a virtual ghost-town as people moved away and businesses closed.

The residents of Kiln that remained developed a new industry around the making of moonshine—a crystal clear but potent alcoholic beverage. During prohibition this became a thriving industry with shipments down the Jourdan River to all parts of the country. Heavily laden cars traveled the gravel roads at high speed heading north or west to New Orleans. Many of the most prominent residents from the previous generation were involved in this industry. They are all gone now along with the industry that made Kiln infamous.

Hurricane Katrina flooded and damaged Kiln more than any other hurricane on record, but it ironically seems to have contributed to its resurgence. Perhaps it appears to be relatively safe compared to the towns directly on the coast. People and businesses are moving back to what was a lonely crossroads with one grocery store and a couple of bar rooms when I grew up there.

Kiln seems to have produced more than its share of fine athletes for such a small rural community. Perhaps it comes from the diverse racial background of the people who came to settle there. Maybe it is partly due to the cycle of hardship that made some strong and resilient. Whatever the reason, many have gone on to fame and a few to tragedy.

This is the story that Dan has set out to tell with old photographs and the memories of those still living. I'm sure that many people, including former residents such as myself will find it fascinating.

—*Placide D. Nicaise, October 2014*



# ***Kiln Kountry***

*Home of Brett Favre  
and other successful athletes  
and the largest Sawmill in the South*

## **An Invitation:**

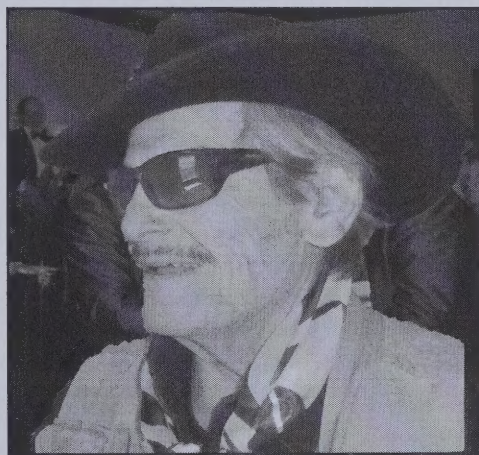
The Reader is cordially invited to improve upon this history by submitting tales, folklore, and legends. If an error is found for recommended correction, please send evidence or reference for its proper deletion or modification. The Reader is also encouraged to send photographs, maps, and/or, diagrams. These will be returned upon request.

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**Kiln Kountry – Home of Brett Favre**

First Edition: August 1998; Revised Edition: March 2000

Second Edition: December 2014

## ***The Kiln – Reference Bibliography***

“Many Faces of Change” by Joan P. Howard and Robert R. Howard. The collected treatise is a compilation drawn from various sources which provides an interesting set of copies of documentation, photographs, and news articles and clippings from various periodicals and pamphlets regarding the Kiln heritage.

“Sea Coast Echo” – printed several special editions for occasions of commemoration, in addition to the many news articles in its regular publication editions.

Article written by Rob Demovsky  
*NFL reporter covers the Green Bay Packers*

“Twenty-Five Years of History – Hancock North Central School” by Rance Nicaise. This is a review from the inception in 1959 – through 25-years of growth and expansion as one of Hancock County’s principle educational forums.

“History of Annunciation Church” by Father Henry McNerny presents a brief history of developing Kiln and the impact of the Catholic church on the growth of the Parish from its inception as a Mission.

“Former moonshiner, bootlegger tells experiences of Greg Cuevas,” by Wayne Ducomb, Jr., special to the Sea Coast Echo in 1980s. The article was re-printed by permission of its author and is enclosed in this book.

“An Evening at the Cow Shed” by Placide "Don" Nicaise

Don Nicaise has produced several wonderful heritage novels of early French personalities of the Gulf Coast. *Children of the Lily – Requiem for the Lily*, and *Legacy of the Lily – His Wilderness Families of the Gulf Coast* has a wealth of knowledge. ***All of these are Must Reads.***

“Bayou Talla” — an article by Ann and Omer Haas

“Broke Spoke-Brett Favre” article by Wright Thompson for ESPN – Jan 2008



## INTRODUCTION

### **The Book** – by Dan Ellis

Having read just about every book and reference that has been available pertaining to Hancock County, the Kiln area, Bay St. Louis, and the Piney Woods, I am grateful for these resources and the assistance rendered by many during several years of research.

The material gathered from the earliest historic incidents was garnered from many resource documents and interviews. More information was also sifted from newspaper clippings from the Sea Coast Echo. Gratefully, many of the photographs came from many who faithfully answered the call to browse through their attics and closets. Very helpful was and is the staff members of the Hancock County Public Library System. I always find, with great elation, that the staff personnel put forth every effort to be supportive.

As always, welcome access was given by Charles Gray to the archival files of the Hancock County Historical Society. Interviews with Billie Faye Lyons and J.E. Favre were most helpful. Of great enlightenment was Lynn Nell Glass Curet with her husband Jimmie. My gratitude to Tammy Ehrlich with the Hancock School System for her document support

In particular, I wish to give my deepest gratitude to Father Henry who not only shared his collection of many photos gathered from local folks during Annunciation Church's 125th anniversary celebrations, but also his enthusiasm for preserving the history and heritage of the Kiln.

In this 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, I extend gratitude to Placide Don Nicaise, Senator Philip Moran, Judith Renshaw, and Coach J. Larry Ladner.

### **The “Cow Shed” — Glass Place and Melva’s Place**



Photo Courtesy: Jimmie and Lynn Nell Glass Curet – 1998



**The Cover – The “Cow Shed”  
and Melva’s Place**

Shorn in two and fragmented, Lynn Nell Glass Curet is shown holding the photograph by two hands carefully as she displayed her cherished photograph of the Crossroads at the Kiln. In "Lynell's" words, the Glass Place received its adopted name a few years after her folks built the dance hall.



As she told the story, "One Sunday afternoon, in the late 30s while a band was playing and a number of folks were dancing, Nick Necaize, Jr. (*Junior Goat*) went out the side door followed by Hubert Bilbo and Gene Favre seeking a fresh air breather. In moments they hauled in a calf which scampered all around the dance floor. Thereafter, the Glass Place was called the “Cow Shed.”

In a further commemoration, musician Jack Brown wrote a song called the “Cow Shed.” The first line was, “After the cows come home!” It became a famous local tune and was recorded on tape.

*The Cow-Shed and Melba’s Place* photo when first offered for showing, was torn in half and its center was in fragments at the time of its removal from storage in Lynn Nell Glass Curet’s attic. The refurbished copy was computer reproduced by Jessie Heitzmann using her great skill in graphics reproduction.



***Kiln Kountry – Home of Brett Favre***  
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## **Welcome to Kiln, MS**

The crossroads at the Kiln is one of the busiest intersections in Hancock County. As the Kiln area continues to grow, activity and traffic at this intersection will make spectacular increases.

The Kiln, today, is becoming busy as it was during its first boom as a lumber town when it hosted the “Largest Sawmill in The South.” At its end, the large factory was dismantled and sent to new locations. Through the passage of years, almost all of those remnants have disappeared. Gone is the hospital. Gone is the large hotel and another one for Negroes. And, gone are the hundreds of mill-houses which existed in 1910.

And, not forgotten was its second Boom – being the “Moonshine Capital of the World” during the period from 1918 even until mid-1960s.

And, most recent is the acclaim that the Kiln received with its world renown recognition as the Home of Brett Favre.

But, regardless of these happenings, almost quietly during the past twenty-five years, in and around the Kiln, subdivisions have been springing up. The central and northern part of Hancock County is becoming repopulated. Everywhere, new houses are being built followed by new businesses as they appear up and down Highway 603.

During the ten years between 1990 and 2000, the growth rate of unincorporated areas of Hancock County outpaced the growth of the cities on the Coast. Diamondhead more than doubled its population during the decade – and the Kiln increased in size by nearly two-thirds during the same period.

The Hancock County Building Department shows that the majority of construction and repair permits for new single family homes are in pre-existing subdivisions in unincorporated parts in Pearlington, Kiln, and Jourdan River Shores.

In the Post-Hurricane Katrina reconstruction of the Mississippi Gulf Coast, the State of Mississippi is encouraging construction away from flood hazard areas. The establishment of the Hancock County Utility Authority and the installation of new sewer systems in the area of Kiln will allow new subdivisions to be constructed north of Interstate 10 near Highway 43.

The lack of water and sewer in the majority of the county has limited the ability to construct large-scale developments. Plans are being implemented by the State of Mississippi and the Hancock County Utility Authority to develop new infrastructure to accommodate an anticipated populace who desire living in areas that are less prone to flooding. The communities of Kiln and Pearlington are targeted beneficiaries of these approaching infrastructures.

As sewer service is extended in Pearlington and Kiln the housing supply will increase in those communities.

Kiln is not only a lovely dairy and farm community basking in the waters of the Jourdan River, Bayou Tala, Bayou Laterre, and Bayou Coco, it is a land-available corridor situated between the burgeoning, controlled Space Center and the 5000-acre city of Diamondhead. The mostly vacant corridor has its entry point from the I-10 Interstate – off at Exit 13 onto Highway 603. This intersection offers a quick southern access to Waveland, nearby Casinos, and Bay St. Louis, or, westward only 20 miles to Slidell and 30 miles to New Orleans. Eastward along the Interstate is Biloxi, and Mobile. For those persons not willing to buy into a Property Owner Association dominated community with predetermined assessments, there are many options open in the less regulated County governed wooded areas.

Bordering on the NASA site buffer zone, which includes 485 square miles, is also located the U.S. Navy's Oceanographic Center and a nuclear core



center for a complete city, but with lock-out provisions preventing residential housing. Therefore, for proximity, there are many folks who seek nearby housing locations and also those who wish to implement a venture in pristine living.

Even though many new faces continually become part of the residential scene, the fervor of civic responsiveness and a pride of heritage preservation thrives through the years.

## **Founders of the Gulf Coast**

*(a brief study of Mississippi History)*

Following the “Discovery” by Columbus in 1492, the earliest explorers to the coastal New World were the Spanish and the Portuguese, who in the 1500s, were the first to map the shores of the Gulf of Mexico. The Spaniard DeSoto is credited as being the first European to encounter the flowing Mississippi River having traversed the present State of Mississippi in 1542.

The early French influence in the New World was first in Canada, having founded Quebec in 1608. From there, Father Marquette and Joliet initiated southward explorations of the Mississippi valley followed by De La Salle's expeditions.

Robert Cavalier de La Salle, a native of Rouen, France, paid for his own provisions using personal resources in order to explore the Mississippi valley. His first voyage from Montreal, Canada in 1669 was unsuccessful – therefore it was followed up in 1680. He finally arrived at the mouth of the Mississippi River on April 9, 1682, when he erected a cross blazoned with the French Coat of Arms and proclaimed formal possession of the Mississippi River and all of its tributaries, and all of the lands, in the name of Louis XIV, King of France.



*The French Banner*

LaSalle named the lands “Louisiana” – for Louis and Anna, the reigning monarchs. The French had a penchant for immediately christening everything they discovered. LaSalle's final voyage by way of the Gulf of Mexico was unsuccessful in his attempt to find the mouth of the illusive Mississippi.

His failure resulted in the baton being passed to Pierre Le Moyne, Sieur d'Iberville, also of French Canada. According to *Iberville's Journals*, he was instructed by King Louis XIV, to "go to the Gulf of Mexico, locate the mouth . . . select a good site that could be defended with a few men, and block entry to the river by other nations."

He was well aware that the English also had commitments to establish a trading post upon the banks of the mouth of the Mississippi River, Iberville made the first move. He commissioned and outfitted the *Badine*, the *Marin* and several slower vessels called *Travasiere*s, (or transports). With discretion and careful determination he selected his men. Comprising his legion of men included his brother, Bienville, and other French Canadian *voyageurs*, in addition to Spanish-speaking Frenchmen and Spanish deserters from Mexico. He acquired trade items for the Indians and stored many guns and ammunition – being prepared to fight the English if for any reason he didn't arrive at the Gulf before them.

They left from Brest, France in October of 1698 and arrived at the Spanish controlled island of Santo Domingo in January of 1699. Staying just long enough to take on new provisions and hiring on fresh local hands, they started searching the coast lines westward delving into each water inlet in search of the elusive mouth of the Mississippi River. To further frustrate the expedition, Iberville found the charts and journals faulty that had been drawn during former explorations by La Salle and from inaccurate Portuguese navigational charts. Painstakingly, during his exploring probes, he personally designed new journals and maps with the help of native Indians.





Having encountered Spanish ships in the Pensacola harbor they continued westward to arrive at the Bay of Mobile. During each careful scrutiny along the way, Iberville would raise crosses and cut the bark of trees to establish and make claim to their presence. Further west they encountered Horn Island which was so named because a soldier had lost his powder horn during a landing. They encountered Ship Island on February 10, 1699, from where they made foraging landings on the mainland to make contact with the Indians. On communicating with the natives they were told of the Mississippi River further west, so they set sail once more, and on the way stopping to investigate Cat Island on March 1st, and from there they continued in the direction of the Mississippi River.

It was customary for Iberville to make daily consultations with his calendar that posted the Holy Saints and celebrations.

At Cat Island, because of the large numbers of racoons, the French called the island *Isle-aux-Chats*. Some historical reviews suggest that the French, on seeing so many racoons, assumed them to be a progeny of cats. However, authoritative researchers signal that the Canadian French were quite astute in their knowledge of furred animals, including raccoons, which they called *chats sauvages* or *chats-aux-huîtres*. Often, the raccoons would fish the shores seeking to eat the oysters (*huîtres*). They would insert their claws to crack open the oyster shells in prying for food. On occasion, one would get their claws caught between the locked shells and would be compelled to await the change of tide, which would often result in their drowning.

On Monday, March 2, 1699, as a storm was pounding the schooner, the French, while attempting to seek haven, coincidentally discovered the mouth of the Mississippi River. The following day they celebrated *Mardi Gras* with a Catholic Mass and raised a cross as a symbol of their manifestation. There, they planted one of a series of the *Fleur-des-Lys*. They traveled further upriver in order to verify that the wide turbulent body of water was actually the Great Mississippi.

They traveled past Baton Rouge (named for a Red Stick they found standing tall on the bluff) and then retraced their voyage to return to the Gulf by way of the Rigolets (*the water passage from Lake Borne to Lake Pontchartrain*). Iberville realized the need to establish a fort in order to protect their claim to the Mississippi River. This resulted in seeking out a safe harbor with adequate deep waters to anchor their ships. In sounding for a deep-water channel, they favored Biloxi Bay over the shallow Bay of St. Louis and that of Pascagoula Bay.

Some of Bienville's entourage, explored around the coastline of the Bay of St. Louis and penetrated several inlets which they encountered, on the east, *Bayou DeLisle* and the *Riviere des Loups* which translates to Wolf River, and on the west, the *St. Germaine*, now called the Jourdan River, and the *Baneeshewah*, or Rotten Bayou in English. Roughly drawn sketches of land and water were made by Iberville and sent to the official map-maker, Guillaume DeLisle, in Paris.

Iberville and Bienville returned to Biloxi Bay where they selected a site for the first settlement on Wednesday, April 8, 1699. They cleared the land and built a fort for protection of the garrison of soldiers which would remain to protect their claims. This was at Ocean Springs. During the



building of the fort, the Indians assembled and five chiefs celebrated for 3 days with dancing and chanting and sounding drums and rattles. One Indian placed his back to Iberville to mount his shoulders as another carried his feet to a planted stake as a sign of peace. It was natural for the French to make alliances with the Indians and taught them how to use tools such as picks and shovels and how to make and replace handles for axes.

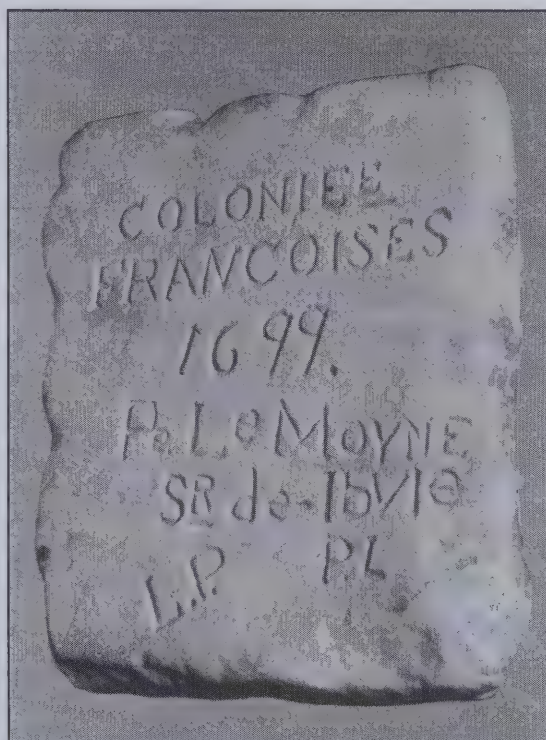


In turn, the French learned Indian methods for cultivation, how to make dugout canoes, and were shown Indian trails and portage routes crossing from bayous to other inland bodies of water.

While making the initial exploratory trip up the Mississippi River, settlement sites were anxiously sought for in order to build a permanent fort. Their haste in doing so was concern for reenforcing their claims and protection of their entourage. To this end, D'Iberville sent forth men to sound and chart the coastal bay waters during March and early April of 1699, and found the depths too shallow at the Bay of St. Louis and at Pascagoula Bay. Having made a choice, he sent men to start clearing the land at Pascagoula, only to change plans by calling them back to Ship Island. He then decided on the Biloxi Bay area where he instructed the establishment of Fort Maurepas on the Fort Point Peninsula which is part of present-day Ocean Springs.

D'Iberville continued exploratory trips, seeking to establish peace agreements with local Indians who were settled along the Pearl River and north of Lake Pontchartrain as well as the area of Pascagoula to the East. Bienville was sent to the West and Sauvole was sent to the East.

In June of 1699, while again sounding the channel at the Pass Christian peninsula, the French named that channel *Passe aux Huîtres* for the many oysters they found there. The group went ashore and stayed one night to hunt the wild game in the area. Bienville named the Bay of St. Louis for the patron saint, Saint Louis.



*Known as the Iberville Stone, this tablet now hangs in the Presbytere Museum at New Orleans after being found at Ocean Springs.*

Returning from another exploration of the Mississippi River, on January 21, 1700, Bienville led his explorers ashore at present day Waveland. The following day they traced the shore and stayed the night on the bluffs of the present town-site of Bay St. Louis.

Together, Iberville and Bienville ascended the Pascagoula River and met with the Indian tribes of the Biloxi, and further north, rested at the village of the Pascagoulas.

In April 1700, Fort Maurepas was completed at Ocean Springs where Iberville had left 80 men behind to man the fort and several small garrisons were sent to the mouth of the Mississippi and at Mobile Bay.

**As D'Iberville and Bienville** encountered new Indian tribes, they quickly made allies of them. The normal custom was a 3-day Feast celebrated by the *Dance of the Calumet* when the peace pipe was passed amongst the top leaders. Then gifts were distributed consisting of knives, hatchets, axes, picks and mirrors, rings, beads and trinkets. The Indians would offer food and teach the French Indian cultivation, making of pirogues, and describing the terrain and Indian villages for the map makers.

After completing his third voyage, upon his return from France on December 15, 1701, Iberville instructed Bienville to relocate the Fort Maurepas garrison to Mobile Bay, where some men had previously been sent to live with the Indians. Iberville spent the whole month of March supervising the construction of *Fort Louis de la Louisiane* on the Mobile River.

## **Return to Biloxi**

Following a severe 1719 hurricane – in 1720, the fort at Mobile was ordered to be abandoned at all haste. Mobile was evacuated and was established as a simple outpost, while Dauphin Island was left as a way station.

*New Biloxi* was started with teepee type shelters until log houses could be built. As new emigrants arrived in 1720, Bienville issued more than 3000 persons small Concession grants throughout New France territories.



Even as a new *Fort St. Louis* was being constructed at *New Biloxi*, Bienville continued to persuade the council to use New Orleans instead, but again, he was outvoted and *New Biloxi* was built as the seat of government, while establishing Deer Island as a temporary shelter for immigrants.



After New Orleans was finally determined as the French Capitol in April 1722, Bienville began his process of moving to New Orleans. He sent word to Ship Island to have all incoming ships from France to begin using the Mississippi River and to send existing stored supplies to New Orleans. By May 1722, all goods and provisions as well as the dismantled garrison were shipped to New Orleans from Biloxi. Only a company of soldiers and a few families who had settled near the fort grounds continued living there.

## Spreading outward along the Coast

In 1717, Madame deMezieres was given a French land grant to all the area around the Bay of St. Louis, but she did not perform the necessary colonization to retain her bid. The next year, Madame Chaumont was granted lands in the Pascagoula area. Two ships, the *La Gironde* and the *La Volage* arrived at Ship Island in 1721, with 300 people destined for several claims along the Coast including the Chaumont

**The French Settlers** were comprised of French and Canadian soldiers; craftsmen such as carpenters and millers; the *Voyageurs* were professional Canadian scouts and guides who mastered the canoes and pirogues; *Coueurs du Bois* were Canadian woodsmen and fur trappers; and the *habitans* were settlers who sought to establish homesteads.

concession. However, the newcomers who attempted to settle the Gulf seaboard were not trained for the untamed wilderness. As a result, many died from disease or from lack of food and potable water. Such conditions caused most of the survivors to become disheartened by their encounters. They either returned to France, or moved to New Orleans after it was established as the new Capital. Those who remained on the coast were further threatened in September 1723, when a violent hurricane swept over the coast resulting in destruction to many of the older settlements.

For those who remained, Sauciers, Ladners, Cuevases, Favres, LaFontaines, Nicaises, La Points and a few more stalwarts – it was their chore to establish their families in several regions along the Coast.

Why did these pioneering people stay? What caused them to fan out over the entire Coastal area to bring about the infra-structure that created the sister cities from Bay St. Louis to Pascagoula? Apparently, these seekers found the peace of *joy de vivre*s and gulf breezes and the greatness of a paradise unfolding. Faced with adversity, illnesses, disease, and starvation – many returned to France – but there were those who tenaciously stayed the course.

## At the Pearl River

The first Favre to arrive at the Coast was Jean Baptiste Favre, Jr., originating from Rouen, France. He was wedded to his first wife, Magdeleine on July 2, 1714, and then to his second wife, Marie Anne Arlut, in 1720. He left four children upon his death, one of whom was Jean Claude Favre who became an official Government

**The Ladner Odyssey** – Nap Cassibry, in his book *The Ladner Odyssey*, described that Christian Ladner landed at Ship Island in 1719, aboard "Le Marie" at age 20. At Mobile, he married Marie Barbe Counal (*Brunet*) and had three sons.

Jean Baptiste Christian Ladner went to the Bay St. Louis area, Mathurin Christian Ladner lived at Horn Island and at Pascagoula, and Nicholas Christian Ladner lived on Cat Island and at Old Chimneys (*Long Beach*).



Interpreter. Jean Claude, during his extensive travels through Indian territories, sired many children, five of whom were legitimate by his wife Marguerite.

One of his children was Simon Favre who also became an official government interpreter and traveled the whole of Mississippi. Prolific like his father before him, his descendants reported to a local genealogist, that Simon had many illegitimate children – white, red, and black – scattered from New Orleans to Mobile and throughout western Mississippi. Simon Favre settled along the Pearl River in 1806, on land claims of his father, Jean Claude Favre, who cultivated some of the area as early as 1767. Simon Favre was sufficiently educated and participated in the negotiations and signing of many Indian Treaties. He also served as one of the four justices of the peace appointed by Governor W.C.C. Claiborne in 1811. He played a prominent part in currying the Choctaw Nation to the American cause under General Jackson, however, he died before the Battle of New Orleans took place.

### **At Bay St. Louis, Pass Christian and DeLisle**

Another of the early colonists was Jean Baptiste Saucier, a French-Canadian sergeant who frequently led small groups of soldiers and Canadians to make camp in the area around the Bay of St. Louis during the early 1700s. Sometimes they stayed for several months when food supplies dwindled at the settlement forts of Biloxi and Mobile. There, they would live with the Indians and hunt for wild game as they awaited the return of ships with renewed supplies from France.

At Pass Christian, signs of habitation were clearly indicated on an English map of 1768 which shows at least four beach location dwellings apparently in existence for a number of years. A notation also indicated that the area along the shoreline was good pasturage for cattle.

At Cat Island, Nicolas Christian Ladner, namesake for the Pass channel, had brought cattle to that island as early as 1748. The Widow Asmard, who outlived three husbands, had possession of the complete peninsular tract of

land that extended from the Bay of St. Louis to the middle of present day Long Beach. She died in 1899, having lived primarily at her New Orleans abode. In her Will, she described at least 20 Negroes who were slaves, or former slaves whom she had freed, that worked her cattle-farm and plantation. She maintained a dwelling house to accommodate her personal needs while checking on her operations. She also mentioned in her Will, of two white men living in the area to whom she ascribed property. Over the years, she had befriended Theresa Labat, a widow originally from the Mobile area, having two sons and a daughter living in the area south of Wolf River and north of Bayou Portage.

### **At the Pascagoulas**

In 1715, Joseph Simon de la Pointe, also a French Canadian attached to the early entourage at Fort Maurepas, was given a land grant in what today is North Pascagoula. A surviving building that he had built is now called the "*Old Spanish Fort*." Another Canadian was Jean Baptiste Baudreau de la Graveline who was granted lands extending from Pascagoula to Biloxi Bay. A neighbor from Lyons, France was Francois Rillieux who later went on to settle on a large land grant north of Lake Pontchartrain at Slidell.

When Hugo Ernestus Krebs arrived, he established a large family at the Pascagoula area that they called Krebsville. One of his daughters married Joseph Labat, and when widowed, moved with her three children to the Pass Christian area at DeLisle to join her sister Marie Calidad and brother-in-law, Francois Dubuisson who later joined Rillieux near the present site of Slidell.

Jean Baptiste Nicaise and his brother, Joseph – and Philipe Saucier and Bartheleme Grelot, with their spouses, evacuated "Belle Fontaine" following a hurricane in the Mobile area during the late 1770s.



## Mapping The Gulf of Mexico

In 1775, Captain Bernard Romans, a Dutch-born map maker, reported the fatal hurricane of 1772, August 30, 31, September 1,2,3, was severely felt along the Gulf Coast. It destroyed the woods for about 30 miles inland from the sea coast. At Mobile, everything was in confusion, vessels, boats, and logs were driven up into the streets a great distance, the gullies and hollows as well as all the lower grounds of the town were so filled with logs, that many of the inhabitants got the greatest part of their yearly provision of firewood there.

All vegetable cultivation was burned by the salt water, which was caused by the violence of the wind carried over the town. Many houses were damaged or destroyed. There was scarce a tree left standing. The 10 families living at Cat Island evacuated to Ship Island or to the mainland.

At Biloxi, Romans observed the French inhabitants producing lumber, pitch, tar, and charcoal from the pine forests. At the Favre plantation at Pearlington on the lower Pearl River he further observed as many as three schooners constantly making shipments of tar to New Orleans in "scandalous and illicit trade." (At that time the Spanish were in control of Orleans.)

## The Indians

The early Spanish and French explorers encountered various tribes along the Gulf Coast such as the *Bylocchy*, *Moctoby*, *Ouma* and the *Pascoboula* (as listed in Iberville's Journals). Near the mouth of the Mississippi River they encountered the *Tangipahoa*, *Mougoulas-chas*, and the *Bayagoulas*; and further upriver they smoked the peace pipe and celebrated the dance of the "Calumet" with the *Nipissas* and the *Quinipissas*. The Indians called the great Mississippi River the *Malbanchya*. The early Spanish called it the *Rio de Palisades* or *Rio de Espiritu Santo*. The early French called it the *St. Louis River*, or by the Indian name of *Missicipy* or *Myssysypy* as recorded in Iberville's Journals.

One of Iberville's entourage, Andre Penicaut, recorded that "during the spring of 1700, Iberville reported contacts only with small groups (of Indians),

a male hunting party in one instance; and small extended families, one of which was traveling with stored maize and beans." Although native villages were located well inland, the Indians established coastal sites during their seasonal encampments.

At least three small Indian tribes with 30 to 50 members each lived on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. They were subsistence farmers and hunters who planted corn, pumpkins, beans, peas and tobacco while gathering nuts and berries, fishing, shrimping, and oystering, and hunting deer, bear, buffalo, and small wild game.

"The Choctaw dispersed in small, presumably family-based, groups during the Spring after the crops were planted. They subsisted on fruit and aquatic foods until the early summer when they returned to their home community for the annual *Green Corn Ceremony*. Following this, they dispersed again until harvest time. After the crops were harvested in the fall, the men went on the Fall hunt and the remaining villagers gathered nuts and other resources for winter and early spring consumption," as described by R. Barry Lewis in his *Fires on the Bayous*.





Choctaws, the descendants of Chief Chakta and his followers, were by far the strongest Indian nation in Mississippi. They lived in the central and southwest regions and covered the southern half of Mississippi. Because the nation was too large to be ruled by one man, the Choctaws divided their people into three groups – each ruled by a chief known as a Mingo. Chief Tacala Yarbo ruled the Hancock tribal group from the Devil Swamp's lower central reach of the county.

Achoucoupoulous was the name given to the area of the Bay St. Louis by the local Indians. Its meaning was "bad grass" for the thorny burrs that stick in the soles of feet and animal paws. Locals now referred to it as "rocka-chock."



*Ageing Choctaw Squaw*

The Indians still remained shy of the white man as a result of their encounter with the Spaniard, DeSoto. During DeSoto's 1540s trek along the coast from Florida to the Mississippi River, he killed all Indians he came in contact with. It was the French settlers who finally made friends with the Indians, and by 1730, the Choctaws and the French accepted each other as equals.

During the early 1700s, a small number of Frenchmen had spread out along the Coast and invaded the bayous, the bays and the rivers. "The French Canadians were not like the other colonists. From the first days of settlement they took the comely Choctaw women as concubines and the young girls of the Natchez and Chickasaw as slaves. They adamantly insisted to the Catholic hierarchy that they had to have women to do their washing and their cooking, and to make *sagamité* from corn, and to maintain their cabins. No military order and no religious edict could keep them from the Indian girls. As time passed, small dusky half-breed children were found playing about their cabins.

The children grew up to be accepted by the racially tolerant Canadians. However this fact became concealed when the new immigrants began to criticize the practice. Nevertheless, some intermarriages had produced some Choctaw-Creole leadership as characterized by the famous Chief Greenwood LeFlore of the Pearl River and Devil Swamp area.

Through the years, Yellow Fever epidemics, warfare and colonial encroachment, greatly affected the Indian population. When the Indian Removal Act of 1830 was enacted, the tribes east of the Mississippi River were forced to exchange their home lands for new lands in the West. The Choctaws and Chickasaws of Mississippi were included, as well as the Creeks from Florida. This enforced migration was later called the *Trail of Tears*.

This resulted in many of the mixed blooded Indians dropping their native names in favor of their European family name as they discreetly remained concealed in the wooded areas. There was no wonder that many of these names were Favre, Dedeaux, Cuevas, Ladner, Dubuisson, La Point, etc. Today, Farve, or *Favre*, is a common name for many of the Choctaws who live in Hancock County.

By 1774, the Indians moved to Louisiana when the French moved out to allow for English control of the Gulf Coast. Indians are now, few in number along the Gulf Coast and much of the Indian heritage has been forgotten. However, we might justly remind ourselves that many of the names of towns, counties, rivers and bayous, and even the State name of Mississippi proclaims the omnificence of their progeny.

## **Indians remained steadfast**

The Choctaw Muskogean tribe claimed the area as their home. The main tribes lived near Devil Swamp, Dillville, and Bayou LaCroix, while a few lived near Pearlinton and Gainesville. However, there were many Indians who lived in and around Bay St. Louis long after the early pioneers had made their homesteads.



The following information was told by then 87-year-old, Mrs. Jeanne Doby Williams to the Sea Coast Echo, on June 24, 1979.

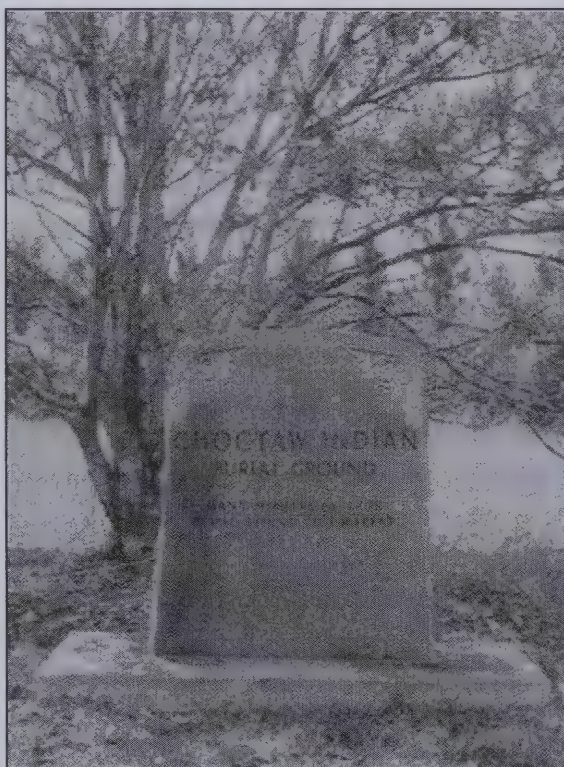
"The Indians I knew best lived in Bayou LaCroix. They came to our pasture to get palmetto. My father never charged them for it as they traded a lot at his meat market. They made pretty baskets, often giving us some."

"They used certain tree barks to dye the palmetto (fronds). Some of their baskets were three-cornered, with a handle, which could be used as a purse. The round baskets were nice for fruit bowls, some had handles. The largest baskets were used as a tote.

"We owned lots of large cherry trees. The Bayou LaCroix Indians bought cherries, poured whiskey over them and aged it into Cherry Bounce.

It was supposed to be a remedy for colic. Needless to say, Indians were not the only ones who used it."

For the amateur archaeologist, or Indian lore seeker, there are still traces of native Indian habitation along the Coast. Archaeological components in Mississippi are unfortunately based entirely by limited excavations, thereby providing limited data. However, some Indian shell piles called *middens* still have potential historical significance.



The early Indians who created these mounds, had done so long before DeSoto made his trek from Florida to the Mississippi River in 1541.

## **The Pirates**

Another flag had fluttered both ashore as well as throughout the waters along the Gulf Coast. It was the flag of the Pirates. There was the pirate Captain Pitcher, and the infamous Lafitte brothers who scurried throughout all of the water inlets from Grand Isle in Louisiana to the Mississippi barrier islands. Several of Lafitte's men remained ashore to settle along the villages of the coast. Then, too, there was the King Pirate of the Honey Island Swamp, the ignoble Pierre Rameau.

Captain Pitcher had established a hide-out in the area between what is now Pass Christian and the western edge of Long Beach. This is now referred to as Pitcher's Point. During his many voyages, all of his crewmen learned to despise him. At Pitcher's Point, he had a tree house built high into the branches of a tall Oak. When ashore, the pirate would hike up a rope ladder to his tree-house to sleep and made it a habit of not mingling with his men. However, one day he had taken extra liberties by embracing an Indian wench who belonged to one of his crew members. After falling asleep the crew placed dry brush all around the base of the tree and set it afire. When Pitcher realized that he could not escape, he bellowed out profanities upon all of the men and cursed all the land around him with prophetic death and tragedy.

Legend or not, in that same area where Captain Pitcher's tree house was planted, a motel, and a retreat home, and a magnificent mansion called *Mount Vernon*, in addition to a later housing development – all became casualties to the curse – devastated over time by killer storms or by unwarranted fires.

New Orleans makes a strong claim on Jean Lafitte, however the famous pirate scavenged the coastal areas from Galveston, Texas to Mobile, Alabama. Because of his participation in the Battle of New Orleans in helping to thwart the British he was given exoneration. After his pardon, he was reported to have disappeared in the West Indies. He also reportedly owned an early house



in Waveland, which was known as the *Pirate House* that dated back to 1802, more than a decade later, the *Pirate House* was washed away by Camille in 1969.

Another story reported that "one of Jean Lafitte's men had taken off with some of his booty in order to bury his cache at DeLisle. Carrying his hefty chest, he was accompanied by his huge vicious dog and left at the treasure site to perform guard duty. The buccaneer was killed while plundering for more treasures. The story told is that the dog continued his vigilance until dying of old age, and that many of the older folk at DeLisle tell of a ghost dog that lives on. The dog has been reported as seen on dark nights as it prowls and growls all night long at the banks of the Wolf River.

It was also reported that Lafitte had buried treasures in Pascagoula and in the neighboring islands. There were also stories about King Cole Denham, the last coastal pirate, who was captured near Pascagoula. In 1927, a treasure hunter using a metal detector reported finding a keg of gold coins that showed the date of 1750.

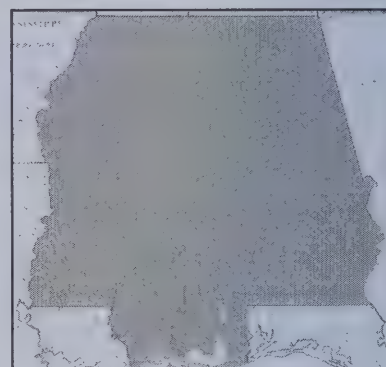
At Bayou la Batre, Captain Jonas Green was said to dig and find treasures. He would use young boys to help him dig. Apparently, a successful dig resulted in one of the young boys being sent off to Chicago with a portion of his find. Forty years later, a middle-aged man returned to Mobile from Chicago and revealed that he had helped an old sea captain find buried treasure.

The Great Gulf Coast and the Barrier Islands continuously attract fortune hunters seeking buried treasures. It is not unusual to find fresh diggings even on the lawns of private homes.

## **Mississippi Territory**

The Territory of Mississippi was organized on April 7, 1798 constituting the present land mass of both Mississippi and Alabama that was situated north of the 31st parallel, but which excluded the Spanish controlled coastal-region called Spanish West Florida. In 1801, at age 26, William Charles Cole Claiborne was appointed by President Thomas Jefferson as governor of the newly organized Mississippi Territory.

In 1803, President Jefferson sent James Monroe and Edward Livingston to France to purchase New Orleans and West Florida. In this regard, Napoleon countered the request by including all of the vast Louisiana Territory into the package sale. Following the acquisition, young Claiborne was sent to New Orleans where he assumed the Territorial Governorship of the southern-most portion of the Louisiana Territory that had been designated as the Territory of Orleans. The new subdivision conformed with much of present-day Louisiana, but without the east side of the Mississippi River. For the Mississippi Territory, Robert Williams was appointed Governor in 1806, followed by David Holmes in 1809.



*Mississippi Territory consisted  
of both  
Mississippi & Alabama*

Because the Louisiana territorial boundaries were not clear as to the West Florida territory, it therefore remained in control by the Spanish. That region reached from Baton Rouge to Natchez along the Mississippi River and east to Pensacola, with the Gulf of Mexico on the South and the 31st parallel on the North. Upon learning that they were excluded from being part of the new Territory of Orleans, in 1810, a group of enraged settlers staged a revolution in the vicinity of St. Francisville and Baton Rouge.

The leaders of that revolution declared West Florida to be an Independent Republic, raised the *Lone Star Flag* in their defiance, and appealed for United States statehood. President Madison followed up by annexing West Florida as a part of the Louisiana Purchase, but Spain disregarded that maneuver and refused to withdraw their troops. This action further infuriated the fighters for independence.

Shortly afterward, the American Stars and Stripes replaced the Lone Star flag as directed by Governor Claiborne to Dr. William Flood, who was sent to enlist each settlement along the West Florida



*West Florida  
Lone Star*



Coast. On January 9, 1811, Dr. Flood docked his sloop, *the Alligator*, at Simon Favre's east bank farm on the Pearl River. There, Flood raised the American flag, and appointed Favre magistrate over Biloxi Parish, which was designated as the area between Pearl River and the Biloxi Bay. That same day, he raised a flag at the area later known as DeLisle, where he appointed Philip Saucier a Justice of the Peace. — And, Jacques Ladner of Biloxi Bay received his documents for appointment to Pascagoula Parish. Dr. Flood then went to the Pascagoula River to commission George Farragut as Justice of the Peace over that region.

At that time, the population estimates recorded by Flood were 750 persons who lived along the Coast.

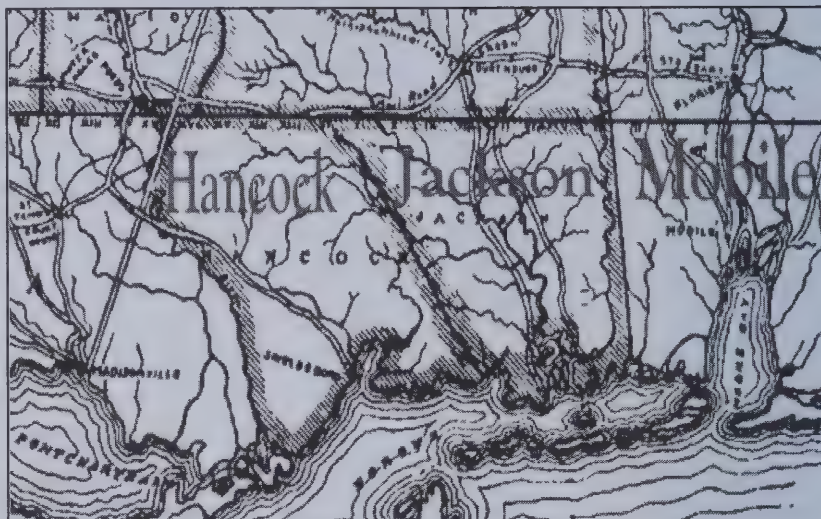
When Louisiana became a state in 1812, its boundaries were expanded past the Mississippi River to the Pearl River, leaving the remaining West Florida lands from the Pearl to the Perdido River to be included in the Mississippi Territory. The population of all the Mississippi Territory in 1812 was just 31,000, which only met half of the population requirement for statehood admittance. This restriction was created between the U.S. Congress and the State of Georgia in negotiations to induce Georgia to surrender its western land claims in Mississippi. In no other territory were land entanglements so restrained in preventing statehood as it had occurred in Mississippi. It was reported that, "Land claims overlapped like shingles on a roof." This was primarily because Mississippi had evolved through four influencing governments: France, England, Spain and the state of Georgia, all having issued their own legal land grants in that area. Land-titles and land claims continued for years to be a problem of frustration to the inhabitants in regards to ownership and property rights. This resulted in many lawsuits which extended over a period of many years.

## **The West Florida Region**

On May 14, 1812, the area from the Pearl River at the west, to the Perdido River on the east, and south of the 31<sup>st</sup> parallel, known as West

Florida, was added to the Mississippi Territory.

In September 1812, the West Florida tract was christened the Mobile County, and three months later, on December 14, 1812, the area was subdivided into three new counties, constituting Hancock, Jackson, and Mobile counties.



*1819 Map showing Gulf Coast counties of Hancock, Jackson and Mobile.*

The western portion between Pearl River and the Bay of Biloxi was designated the County of Hancock. It was named for John Hancock, the president of the Continental Congress and the first signer of the Declaration of Independence. The area from the Bay of Biloxi to the Pascagoula-Escatawpa rivers was named Jackson County in honor of Gen. Andrew Jackson. The Alabama section continued to maintain the Mobile County name.

Hancock County's first county seat was situated at Center, later called Caesar, a community near to its geographic center. Hancock County was established in 1812, and a courthouse building was built in 1817. The county government remained at Caesar for twenty years, until the county seat was moved to Gainesville with the construction of a new courthouse there in 1837.

## **Early Hancock County**

The town of Gainesville on the Pearl River, early on, had developed into



a shipping center of some significance. It was a busy prosperous town with lumbering interests and cotton shipments that were brought in from as far away as Columbia, Mississippi.

The courthouse at Gainesville burned on March 31, 1853, and the county seat was then determined for relocation to Shieldsborough (Bay St. Louis), but not without a prolonged contest between the two cities that was soon interrupted by the Civil War years and the Reconstruction Period.

In addition to fire losses in 1853, more of the county records were reportedly destroyed by Federal Troops in 1863.

So sure were the citizens of Shieldsborough (Bay St. Louis) in housing the seat of government – that even as early as October 17, 1838, Rutelius and Marie Pray deeded to the county of Hancock, the ground for the courthouse. The present county courthouse now stands there. The gift of land was actually instituted more than a generation before the county seat was relocated.

The May 1867 term of the Police Court was held at Shieldsborough with a courthouse being erected there in 1874.



*The original Hancock County was centered between the Pearl and Biloxi rivers.*

### ***The Gulf Coast endured***

Ship Island continued to be a major site as an immigration center for newly arriving passengers and also served as a way-station for imported slaves. The island continued to provide housing for military garrisons and government employees. Due to ships that carried diseases, or during the flare up epidemics of Yellow Fever at New Orleans or Mobile, the few coastal families learned to

survive by growing their own crops and maintaining cattle grazing lands.

As time passed and families multiplied with children and grand children, they began to create a few industries such as cut timber, cord wood, pitch and tar harvesting, farm produce, sheep and cattle, and later small boat construction and brick manufacturing. They would periodically bring these items aboard their fishing vessels or light schooners to market in New Orleans and trade for items they needed.

## **The First Recorded Settlers to the Bay area**

The earliest pioneers were Jean Baptiste Nicaise and his brother, Joseph, who were brothers-in-law to Philipe Saucier and Bartheleme Grelot.

Saucier, Grelot and the Nicaise brothers, with their spouses, left "Belle Fontaine" in the Mobile area following a devastating Hurricane in 1772.

Philipe Saucier, grandson of Jean Baptiste Saucier, took legal title to 680 acres of Bay St. Louis property on August 27, 1781. The land features were like the area of Mobile which they had left behind, and called their new home turf — "*Fontaine*".

By virtue of being among the earliest homesteaders to the area, the Nicaise's acquired the choice lands on the eastern bluffs, now Olde Town Bay St. Louis. They continued to inhabit and cultivate the Bay area until 1813, during which time, some of the land was sold and some portions

were given to their heirs. Early on, "Martial" Nicaise had taken Louise Ladner, daughter of Jean Baptiste Christian Ladner for his bride.

The Saucier's and Grelot's moved to the DeLisle area across the Bay, and transferred their ownership in the Bay St. Louis land grant to Jean Baptiste "Martial" Nicaise and Joseph Nicaise.

The area west of the Bay of St. Louis is shown on a Map of 1732, as "*Fontaine*", and the area west of the Mobile River as "*Belle Fontaine*". This was many years before Philipe Saucier and "Martial" Nicaise settled the lands around the Bay of St. Louis.

Fontaine, which means fountain, evidently was named for the many mineral springs which would flow spontaneously.



**As reported by Jerry Heitzmann**, in his genealogical publication of “The Favre Family,” prior to Simon Favre's birth, his father, Jean Claude Favre, sired "Charlot" Favre, Sr. in a legitimate marriage to an unknown woman. Charlot, Sr. married Angelique Christian Ladner, daughter of Jean Baptiste Ladner and Marie Louise Fisseau, thus Charlot became a brother-in-law to Martial Nicaise, who settled at Bay St. Louis and later, at the Kiln. Charlot, Sr. gave birth to Charlot, Jr. in 1781 and to another son named after his uncle Simon Favre in 1780.

Following Charlot, Sr.'s death, Angelique married Jean Baptiste Lardasse in 1799 at Shieldsboro (Bay St. Louis) and gave birth to Euphrosine Favre-Lardasse who married Charles Nicaise, son of “Martial.” On April 21, 1800, Charlot Jr. married Louisa Mimi also known as *"Pelagra Felicitel"*, an Indian, who, later, called herself Madam Charlot. Their daughter was named Euphrosine, or "Zine" Celistine.

**The following was extracted from *Gloria Morin's Historical Collection***

Philippe Saucier received two Spanish land grants in the St. Louis Bay area, one recorded (on August 27, 1781 at current Bay St. Louis) – and another in 1794 as a tract of vacant land situated on the Bayou called DeLisle . . . bounded on the southwest by land belonging to Bartholome Grelot – today's Gollott family – and on the northeast by vacant land.

The land granted to Philippe Saucier is shown on a Harrison County Engineer's map of the area as being on the northeast end of the DeLisle Bayou bridge, extending eastward to Menge and, in two triangles to east of Menge Avenue.

The land on the northwest end of DeLisle bridge is shown as being the claim of Bartholomew Grelot or Gollott - where the beautiful, enormous oak trees are (*on the left when crossing the DeLisle bridge going north*).

In 1846, Marie Louise Nicaise's will, handwritten in

French, was filed for probate in Harrison County. In the settlement of her estate, her twelve slaves were sold, along with seventy-two head of cattle and various real estate parcels to Jacques Saucier, Henry Saucier, Ramon Lizana, Virginia Toulme, and Cherri DeDaux.

Marie Louise Nicaise was the widow of "Martial" Nicaise.

In 1813, some of the original pioneers to Bay St. Louis relocated to the Kiln area. Their heritage and properties were left behind for the nine "Martial" children and their descendants, as well as the four daughters of Joseph.

Jean Baptiste (J.B.) Nicaise requested a land grant of 1200 acres at the Kiln, where he and Genevieve (Ladner) and their then 3 children moved.

Other early settlers were John and Noel Jourdan, for whom the river is named. The original French name for the Jourdan River was "*St. Germaine*."

The Jourdan brothers were each awarded Spanish land grants along Jourdan River and Rotten Bayou, which the Indians called "*Baneshewah*" and the French called "*Bayou Biancois*."

Noel Jourdan made his home at Hickory Point within the area of present day Diamondhead and he became involved with political activity in Hancock County and Mississippi.



Early settlers to the Kiln area are shown as Jean Baptiste Nicaise, Jean Baptiste Ladner, Jean Baptiste Cuevas, and Charles Favre. Each square represents 640 acres or a square mile which is a "Section" of a Township.



Another first settler to the area was Joseph Moran, or Morin, as was the original spelling.

The majority of settlers who came to the Gulf South region before 1795 claimed their lands under Spanish grants. For the most part, these early claims consisted of large tracts of land fronting the Bay by 20 arpents extending northwesterly to a depth of 40 arpents, equaling approximately 680 acres. This pattern also was adopted by the Spanish government when they took control of the area. Later, these grants were usually upheld by the American Congress once Mississippi became a state in 1817.

By 1811, there were less than 800 people along Mississippi's Gulf coast and most of them were of French descent. Until the end of the War of 1812, economic growth in the old Mississippi Southwest lagged behind that of other regions to the north and east.

By 1818, the influx of the American migration of settlers from the North and Eastern seaboard resulted in a new pattern of living that fostered the establishment of small inland settlements, usually built around a single family-owned industry: a sawmill, lumber port, or turpentine still. Timber was sent down-river on small boats and carried to New Orleans or to Ship Island to be loaded on ships bound for foreign shore by inland lumbermen.

By 1830, many of the vacationing rich from New Orleans and Natchez area had discovered the Gulf Coast. This resulted in small family-owned hotels, boarding houses, and elaborate homes being built. Steamboats crossed the coast from Mobile to New Orleans, making stops at the small towns which were called "watering holes."

## **Kilns and Lumber Mills**

### *In the Piney Woods*

Mississippi's extensive pine and cypress timber forests were quite awesome with exceptionally towering trees. Following the first settlements, timber was cut and exported to France for construction of their naval fleet. The areas north of the Bay abounded with forests full of tall standing yellow pine. In addition to lumber mills, the early settlers built huge kilns which produced pine tar that was used for caulking the wooden hulls of ships of that time. Charcoal was another by-product produced from fire under the kilns. Turpentine, which is used for paint, was distilled in the stills from resin. Large ovens were also used to dry and cure lumber.

This section of Hancock County was at one time referred to as Three Rivers Mission — the Wolf River to the East, the Jourdan in the middle, and the Pearl River, which flows on the West.

Roads were built to link the Kiln area with Picayune, Poplarville, and DeLisle, making the Kiln, the *Crossroads* for activity. Travelers and motorists from New Orleans used these shelled and graveled roadways as their travel paths to and from Pass Christian and other coastal and eastern towns.



## **The Kiln ( *pronounced The Kill* )**

The Kiln is located 50 miles from New Orleans and a few miles west of Diamondhead, and just ten miles north of Bay St. Louis and Waveland beaches. It was named for all the large kilns built by the early French settlers and those who followed. The early kilns produced naval stores such as tar which was shipped by schooner to New Orleans and used for caulking ships.

### **Dry Kiln Development**

The first dry kilns were crudely erected during the 1870s and 1880s. However, it was this invention that was to contribute greatly to the development of the yellow pine industry. Before the kilns were used, the curing of lumber was in the open air, known as the air-drying process. In the South, where rainfall was heavy, weeks often passed before the lumber became thoroughly dry. The advantages of kiln-drying over air-drying resulted in weight reduction which reduced the cost of shipping. Also, the lumber was less subject to bluing, a discoloration caused by fungi.



A typical charcoal kiln is shown above. Charcoal and timber by-products were sent by boat to the New Orleans market.

The function of the different types of dry kilns was to dry or season the lumber so that it would permanently retain its shape and color. Before that, a large percentage of board lumber was air-dried in what was called green yards. By comparison, the time required to dry lumber in the drying kiln was only thirty to ninety hours depending on the grade of lumber. Kiln drying produced a superior grade of lumber and reduced the weight of a carload from 40,000 to 23,000 pounds. The average weight of a thousand board feet of rough lumber was 4,300 pounds, compared to that of dressed lumber which was 3,100 pounds.

Most of the dry-kilned lumber went to a re-manufacturing plant that was commonly known as the planing mill. There, the lumber was planed, smoothed, and shaped for further processing on other machines to provide lumber for ceilings, flooring, and drop siding.

## **Tar Kilns**

In the Sea Coast Echo, (1976) Bicentennial issue, Jeanne Williams' remembrances of Tar Kilns were the open and uncovered tar holes that proliferated in the area. Some of these holes were four feet in diameter and three feet deep at the low end. They were round with a concrete-like rim around them formed from dirt and tar mixings. The edge rims were about fourteen inches high. When it rained these holes would fill with water and calves would sometimes fall in and drown.

"Tar was produced from heart pine, usually from trees that had blown down and the sap wood rotted away. The older the tree the more tar it produced. A level spot would be selected, cleared and the bottom graded to a slant. Here the barrel would be placed to catch the tar. The tar barrel when full was very heavy. A bucket with a long handle was used to dip the tar out and put into another barrel that was on level ground."

"After the tar cooled, a top was nailed in the second barrel. It was rolled on poles into a wagon that hauled it to a schooner and sent to New Orleans."

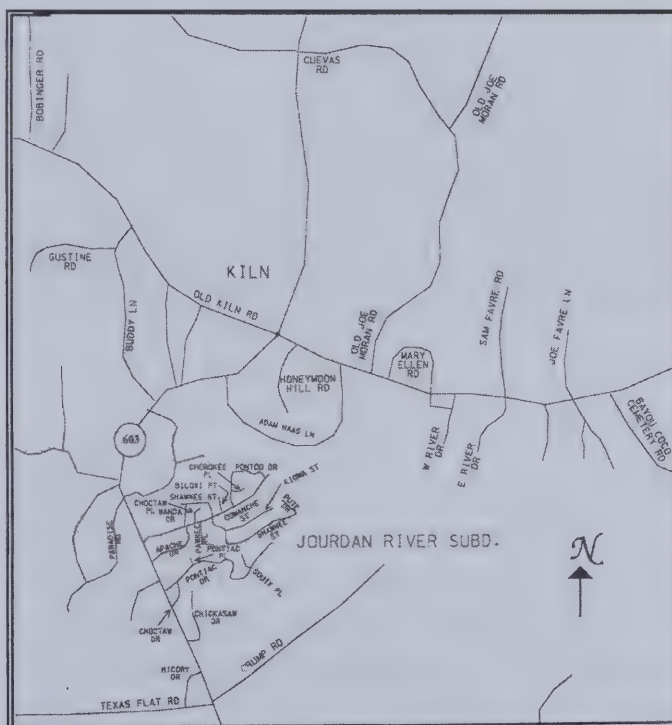




At left shows the steam screw named Lady Jane.  
At right is a schooner owned by Margaret Faye of Fenton in 1906.

Schooners that were used to transport lumber products were moored in Bayou Talla. The shipyard was located east of the Kiln at Fenton – owned and operated by Edward Faye.

The map of the Kiln shows the area north of U.S. 1-10. Highway 603 running north and south. At the point where the east-west road crosses Hwy 603 is known as *the Crossroads* where recently was placed the first traffic control light in the whole area East of the Kiln. The road is known as the Kiln/Picayune road. West of the Kiln the road is known as the



Kiln/DeLisle road which leads to Fenton, Diamondhead, Delisle and the Gulf. Highway 603 south leads to Waveland, Bay St. Louis, and the Gulf.

## **Early Businesses**

Captain Samuel L. Favre left Mobile for the Kiln in 1859. The home he built, is recognized as the oldest in the area. He also built a sawmill in 1870, and operated a general store next to it.

Lumber mills were located near water access. Thus, the timber that was cut would be hauled by oxen to available water streams and floated down to the mills.

Following the Civil War, New Orleanian, Francois Haas, arrived to build a sawmill located on Bayou Talla. This mill later became known as the Herlihy & Haas Mill. The Francois Haas sawmill was operated by Elisha Haas and Timothy Herlihy.

Another early sawmill at the Kiln was operated by Emilio Cue, who later became the first Postmaster for the Kiln on January 31, 1887.

The benefits of water transportation on the River Jourdan in addition to access to the vast virgin forest to the north during this era, fostered other industries to grow at the Kiln area.

To cross the Jourdan River at designated access points, barges were built such as that which was at Pauline's Landing, located 400 yards east of the present-day Highway 603 bridge. C.L. Baker operated a saloon in the Kiln in what was known as the *"East Vicksburg Section."*

Shipyards were operated in the Kiln on Jourdan River by Willie Curet, and on Bayou Talla, by Jeremiah Haas.



*The Old Kiln Drug Store is remembered by many old timers. "Uncle Eddie" Favre and dog.*



There was also a shingle mill operated by Salvador Necaise. And, J.A. McLeod processed turpentine and resin near the entranceway to the McLeod Water Park off Highway 603. All of these are familiar names with descendants living today in the Kiln community.

Lumber mills were located near water access because the timber that was cut had to be hauled by oxen to available water streams and floated down to the mills.

## **Largest Sawmill in the South**

The two major Kiln mills were eventually purchased by W. W. Carré in 1909.

This caused the removal of private homes that had been standing along the river banks in order to expand the mill.

Work conditions were strenuous. Mill owners made their labor force work as much as 16 hours a day.

Eventually the Knights of Labor organized a local union to bring about changes which reduced the daily work-day to 14 hours per day, and later to 10 hours per day.

The big plant suffered severe fire damages on October 28, 1913, and was sold to L.N. Dantzler and Edward Hines, who were lumbermen in Chicago.



*The completed construction of the JRL sawmill at the Kiln*



*Dwellings are clearly visible on the opposite bank of the Jourdan*

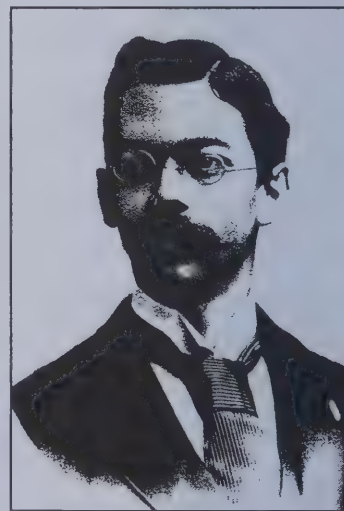
Within a few years, the rebuilt and expanded mill became known as the largest sawmill in the South and called the Jourdan River Lumber Company.

## **Kiln lumber mills Timeline**

The Kiln had a long association with timbering beginning with charcoal, stovewood, and firewood before the Civil War. In the 1860s, a man named Thompson built a small mill and sold it to Frank Gutierrez, who later sold it to Emilio Cue. Cue, employing about a dozen men, sold his business after a few years to Herlihy and Haas who in turn sold it to W.W. Carré in 1898.

Carre's mill burned down in 1912 and sold the property to Edward Hines.

Edward Hines from Chicago by 1909, had accumulated 241,000 acres of timberland valued at \$8 million. In 1913, he established the Jourdan River



Edward Hines of Chicago bought thousands of acres of timber and formed the Jourdan River Lumber Co. which was built on the Jourdan River's high north bank at the Kiln.



Lumber Company with the L.N. Danzler Lumber Company of Pascagoula. The mill was built on the Jourdan River's high north bank.

The Hines Mill consisted of a main building 64 feet-wide and almost 400 feet-long, not including the platforms and other extensions.



The mill was built on the Jourdan River's high north bank



Two band mills, an eight-foot horizontal band saw, with edgers and trimmers, gave the mill an annual capacity of 50-million-feet. Seven massive boilers supplied the power, and the planing mill produced nearly 100,000 feet-

per-day on ten-hour runs. More than seven million feet of rough stock was stored in the interior lumber yard.

With the exhaustion of the region's virgin pine forests, in 1929, Edward Hines closed his mill at the Kiln.

The Kiln became a ghost town after Hines moved out to the Pacific Northwest to resume his business of cutting timber.

Historian, Thigpen wrote that the "Edward Hines Lumber Company decided in 1912 to build their big sawmill at Kiln. Men were brought in from everywhere. First came the mill builders, the millwrights, the carpenters. The men who worked in a sawmill in those days had to live in the community where they worked and within a very short walking distance – or with transportation on horseback or in a buggy or wagon. Practically all of the men employed in the Kiln mill lived within a radius of a mile or so of the mill."

Thigpen related that the mill houses, some 200 of them, were built in a very short time and as

the village was being built preparations for the foundation for the mill went on. It took almost a year to complete the sawmill, plane mill, power house and other necessary buildings. Also under construction was a modern school building, well designed for the times. By 1913, Kiln grew into one of the best small towns in the state and was for a time the busiest town between Hattiesburg and New Orleans. During those years, the area flourished.



The engine of a Log Train at the Kiln. When the timber industry was played out and the Great Depression of 1929 occurred, the rails were ripped up and sold to pay off creditors.



*Worker's homes would sometimes flood when living on the river banks.*



There was a company store at that time which included a meat market, vegetables, produce, clothing, and shoes. People came from miles around to trade at the store.

On the company grounds was a 50-room hotel which had a reputation for serving fine food at reasonable prices. It stood almost directly across from the Annunciation Church. There was also a hospital with a doctor and nurse on duty at all times, and two doctor's offices and two drug stores. A second 40-room hotel for Negroes was built near the present artesian well which still flows its rich mineral waters.



*50-room Kiln Hotel*

Lumber from Kiln was shipped down Jourdan River and by rail over the company railroad by way of Lumberton where daily passenger service was also available between Kiln and Lumberton. Kiln residents also enjoyed the recreational benefits of a movie house, the Palace Theatre, and a pool hall. Baseball was a leading sport along the Coast and the Kiln semi-pro team was one of the best in south Mississippi.

In a book, by Nollie W. Hickman entitled *Mississippi Harvest*, the author stated that, "By 1840, there were ten sawmills in operation in Hancock County and in that part of Hancock which became Harrison County in 1843.

Because logs had to be brought to the mills by water from interior forests, and lumber shipped to outside markets by boat, almost all of the early



Trails were cut through timber forests and wagons were hitched to teams of oxen which carried logs to the nearest bayou or river for transportation to the mills.

mills in the coast country were erected at river mouths or on the banks of bayous which extended a few miles into the interior. In Hancock County, the mills were a short distance up the Pearl River from Lake Borgne and at the head of the Bay of St. Louis. Pearlington, Napoleon, Logtown and Gainesville, and the Kiln were early sawmill sites."

Cypress and pine logs were manufactured into lumber, staves and shingles; then shipped by schooners and brigs to the markets at New Orleans or to Ship Island for foreign export. Although the product was lumber, transporting the



Even with the advance in transportation with trucks oxen teams were still put to use as shown here loading logs upon a truck bed.

lumber and its by-products from the heart of the piney woods was of utmost importance. Before the Civil War, the mills were smaller and the job tasks were primarily performed by slave labor.

The early mills transported most of their lumber aboard two-masted schooners as were common before the Civil War and for a considerable time afterwards. With development, steamboats were redesigned, placing the engine, pilot house and living quarters as far to the stem as possible. This gave the boat 30 or 40 feet of deck space for loading lumber, as well as storage in the hold.



Eventually, more economical tug boats were put into use pulling barges. In those days, barges were towed behind the tug, whereas today, barges are placed ahead of the tug, and pushed. Lumber was shipped out of Gulfport or taken to New Orleans to be shipped to foreign countries. In 1922, the largest tow of lumber that was ever taken out of Logtown was nine barges containing a little over a million feet of lumber.



This tow was handled by one tug boat, the 65-foot "*Edgar*", and was taken to Gulfport. From there it was shipped to Buenos Aires, Argentina. Lumber had been shipped around Cape Horn to Guayaquil and Punta Arenas, Argentina, to both East and West Africa, and to various European countries bordering on the Atlantic and Mediterranean. One shipment went by rail to San Francisco thence by water to Korea.



During the Kiln's economic rise with the lumber industry, the town had developed 200 mill houses and had its own railroad line hauling out lumber as well as accommodating passengers. Tracks were laid to Lumberton as additional passenger trains were added. This traffic and activity called for the building of a fifty-room hotel, a company hospital, a commissary, a large dry kiln, and a flourishing lumber yard.





In the process of new construction and renovations, rumors became alive about pirate treasures having been buried in the area. It was not unusual for dwellers to awaken to find that their yards had been dug up during the night. Divining rods of all description were brought in and it was not uncommon to arise in the morning to find deep holes dug in different parts of one's property. It is generally known that a band of pirates did operate in this area but if any treasure was ever found remains a mystery.



*Blacksmith Shop operated by Charles Lindsey for Albert Shaw*

Probably what promoted the treasure rumors was when the Napoleon Baptist Church had been torn down, two live oak trees on the property were assessed to be 150 years old, and when up-rooted, coins dating back to 1721 were found, and were suspected to be pirate's buried treasure.

## **The Millwright**

Uncle Joe Roddie arrived in the Kiln in 1912 to take charge of operations and construction of the immense project which would encompass the Edward Hines Lumber Co.



*Lumber Warehouse at RR tracks*

Edward Hines had bought up many of the smaller mills and almost all of the acreage of yellow pine timber for many miles around. Even after the mill closed down, Uncle Joe remained at the Kiln; and as late as the early 70s, he recalled the vast sprawling mills and millyards that were highlighted by three huge stacks and a massive giant kiln and water tower that were surrounded by many company homes in addition to hotels, a meat market, barber shop, drug store, hospital, theater, and a general store.



*Commissary and Drug Store*



He also helped build a new school. Uncle Joe hung in, long after the Great Depression of the 30s closed down the mill. He also hung in during the ensuing years to watch the wooden structures become dismantled, the mill equipment hauled out, and track railings pulled up to be sent to other locations. He even continued to remain as he watched the thicket undergrowth and wilderness take hold and make its conquest over the grim remains of the once flourishing mill-site. He watched as his handiwork was returned once more to piney woods, and the course of the Jourdan River become enclosed by nature's vegetation. He watched as the forests compressed upon the small hamlet of the Kiln, that was once a promising resort.



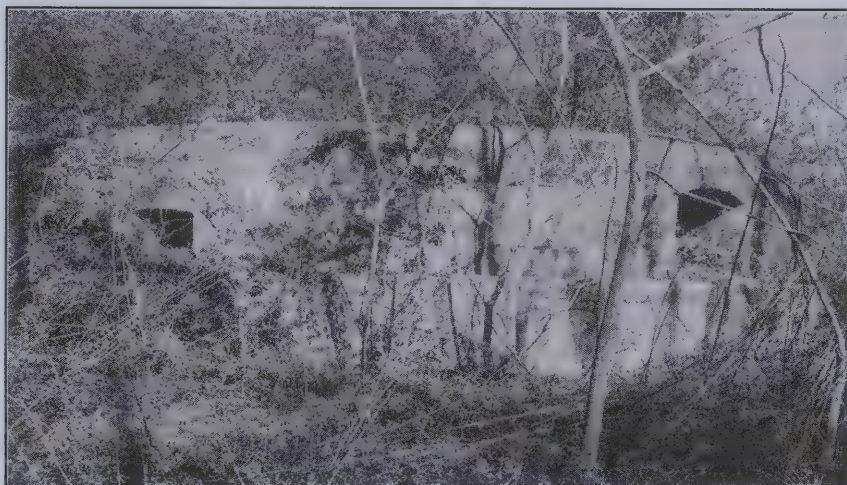
*Lumberjacks moved on to other mills when the Jourdan closed down.*

## Leftover Relics

S u n d r y photos shown in this edition represent the setting in which Father Henry McInerny had arrived in 1984 when he began his h e r i t a g e investigations which resulted in his infiltrating the forests that shielded the leftover relics of a by-gone era. His pictures of the relics show what is left of the Largest Saw Mill in the South.

## Shotgun Quarantines

The sawmills continued to operate in spite of Yellow Fever epidemics. The State Militia were called out to prevent anyone from leaving and to keep anyone from entering. This action was called the Shotgun Quarantine. Logs were still sent down the river to keep the sawmills supplied.



The Base of the Dry Kiln as built in 1912 is still existent at the Kiln. It stands about 10-feet high and was the brick base for the high and wide tubular shaft rising to the horizon of the sky in pictures of the lumber mill.





## **Moonshine Capital of the World**

### ***The Great Depression of the '30s***

With the "*Great Depression*," the town lost its sawmill, its hotel, its hospital, and its railroad. The Kiln became a "ghost town." Even the track rails were pulled up, sold, and sent to Mobile for export to Japan. The hospital, hotel, and mill houses eventually disappeared. The source of electricity was cut off. When the Mill generators were removed, the town returned to lanterns and candles for lighting. Father Denis installed a small generator for the Church and rectory to supply basic utility needs for his parishioners.

Many folks left, while many who remained, eked out a living by distilling illegal whiskey. Much of the land that had been cleared for logging buildings, was reclaimed by nature's progression, turning it back to a forest wilderness.

Father Henry McNerny stated in his history of Annunciation, "With the proliferation of kilns for distilling turpentine and for curing lumber, it probably seemed fairly logical to experiment with distilling alcohol. In the days of prohibition, it made this option all the more lucrative."

"However, it seems that it was not until after the depression and the loss of the lumber and sawmill business here, — that, for many people, it was probably done out of necessity as much as anything. It has been told to me, by one who knows, that at the height of its popularity, there were probably up to 50 stills operating in these parts."

Historian, S. Grady Thigpen, Sr. wrote that, "Kiln was famous for two things: one of the biggest and best sawmills in the country and for its 'moonshine' whiskey."

Whiskey making was big business in the Kiln area after the Mississippi Prohibition Act was passed in 1908. This illegal business had another great growing spurt after the national prohibition act was passed by Congress in 1918. It was said that an average of \$4000 of sugar a week was sold by a small local merchant.

Kiln liquor had a reputation for high alcoholic proof and went under such names as "*Jourdan River Dew*," "*White Lightening*," "*Shinny*," etc.

Many and amusing were the tall tales circulated about the effect of drinking Kiln liquor, and customers from areas of Chicago, Galveston, and sections of Tennessee were buyers of wholesale quantities.

The Bay and its surrounding waters, in particular the Jourdan River, were waterways well known to Al Capone and his gang as they ran their ex-Coast Guard cutter up the waters bringing bootleg whiskey and illegal rum from Cuba. This wet booty was unloaded at Hickory Point, near present-day Diamondhead, and trucked overland to Chicago.



In his book Hometown Mississippi, James Brieger reported that, "During the Prohibition era the territory around Kiln was the center of a moonshining industry and was known for its quality of whiskey as far north as Milwaukee, Wisconsin. It is said that one boat alone brought 1,000 sacks of sugar a week here for the manufacture of whiskey at the famous kiln called *Shinny*."

"There were tales of giant stills well-hidden under sawdust piles. It was an all-day effort for those in the production of the bootleg, because they had to be constantly dodging the revenue agents. It was often necessary for them to move their stills during the middle of the night to always new locations hidden away in the piney woods. It was also necessary to be near fresh water for distribution and bags of sugar had to be procured and carted to the site."

Bootleg whiskey was more commonly called "*White Lightning*," or "*Jourdan River Dew*," and was rated 180 proof. It was a constant battle with "revenoors" who were ever in search of kilns to destroy – and moonshiners to arrest.



***Little Brown Jugs***  
*Corn liquor clay jugs with corn cob stoppers were eventually replaced with glass and plastic containers.*



Good quality White Lightning was usually made of corn, requiring a lot of sugar to aid in the fermentation process of the mash. It was then poured into oak casks to age and was brought to a mellow flavor.

Even though the quantity exists no longer, there are many today who brag about the quality and will furtively offer "a little taste." Old timers still like to tell stories about hogs that went "hog-wild" in a drunken stupor after snorting and eating the used mash which was dumped in the woods.

Columnist Bill Minor wrote about the Kiln in remembering that it was famous for the best "*moonie*" processing of moonshine. He mentioned that the New Orleans emigres never got into the production part of the moonshine "industry" because that was left to the experts of Kiln, and Necaise Crossing, and Fenton. He stated that it was alleged that more of the cheaper moonshine was sold in Bourbon Street bars than the bonded stuff.

According to his historical account, the Piney woods locals had to turn to other pursuits than the timber industry for a livelihood which resulted in moonshine stills cropping up all over the timber lands.

"Moonshining began to flourish when national prohibition was initiated in 1918. The rest of the country came to its senses and repealed Prohibition in 1933, but good ol' Mississippi held onto the farce of Prohibition all the way into 1966. This gave "shine" a market in Mississippi even though bonded booze was widely available in so-called "dry" Mississippi."

"The moonshine craft was handed down from generation to generation and a professional pride existed among the practitioners of the art. After pursuing the moonshiners for decades the feds only began to effectively hurt the industry by using helicopters to spot stills.

Back in the 1950s, Bill Minor use to drop by the federal courts in Jackson to listen to the mean ol' feds trying to punish the simple, unsophisticated citizens – particularly those from Hancock County. Once when a wiry old "shiner" was hauled up before the judge, the judge wanted to know why he had 500 pounds of sugar in his possession.



"I like my coffee sweet," said the "*shiner*" with a straight face. Unimpressed, the judge shipped the alleged felon off to the federal slammer in Atlanta.

M.A. "Bud" Phillips tells about the time a big Brahman bull got loose and found a mash cooker at a still during the night. The next day the hulking animal was found laid out on the ground.

"It took three days for that bull to sober up," said Phillips.

Back then the going price for the good stuff was \$3 a gallon while you could get the not-so-good for \$1.50 a gallon.

It appears that it wasn't the federal "revenoors" that closed down the stills – it was the federal Space Program. All the good lands with free-flowing wells near fresh water bayous were appropriated into the NASA project compound.

## **Interview with J.E. Favre**

"My great grandfather, J. B. Nicaise, owned 1200 acres of land here at the Kiln. My grandfather was Samuel Favre and my father was also a Samuel. I went to Kiln High which was torn down in 1939 and replaced by the Kiln Consolidated School.

"The town of Kiln got its name from the tar and charcoal kilns. I remember when charcoal was sent by schooner down Bayou LaTerre, and the bayou was 60 feet deep – but now, we can wade across it at times, because the erosion from the loss trees caused sand to wash in and fill up the bottoms."

"We owned 30 acres at the house and 30 acres further up the road on where we grew corn to be used to feed our cattle. Then the cattle grazed freely – unfenced – as our 200 head roamed together with a few other local farmers. There were never any problems, we knew our own cows just as the others could identify theirs."

"It was also our job, my three brothers and I, to tend the fields next to the house where on we grew everything for our daily food. — And as a youngster, we also went hunting for squirrels and rabbits."

"Even after the mills closed down there were still some who continued to run some kilns as most of the other laborers left for other places. Those who stayed were mostly the ones like myself who were born here and owned some property. But there were others who gave us new fame from the Moonshine Whiskey they made. My family didn't make it, but we did help out by drinking it."

## **RumRunners and MoonShiners**

Mississippi had declared itself "dry" in 1908, and it became the first state to ratify the 18th Amendment 10 years later. Prohibition slowly slipped across the United States from one state after the other.

It was natural that the Gulf Coast (Mississippi) would become the first state in RumRunning. Coastal shipyards had lost their boat building contracts with the Armistice signing of November 11, 1918, ending World War I. Further, with the dissipated war effort and the impending Depression of the 30's, the Gulf Coast became a natural habitat for running back and forth to Cuba and the other Caribbean islands. With diligent modifications, military craft and fishing vessels were converted to become the "best damn rum-running boats in the world.

Further, with the depletion of the saw-mill industry, it was not difficult to turn the kilns and turpentine stills into alcoholic production.

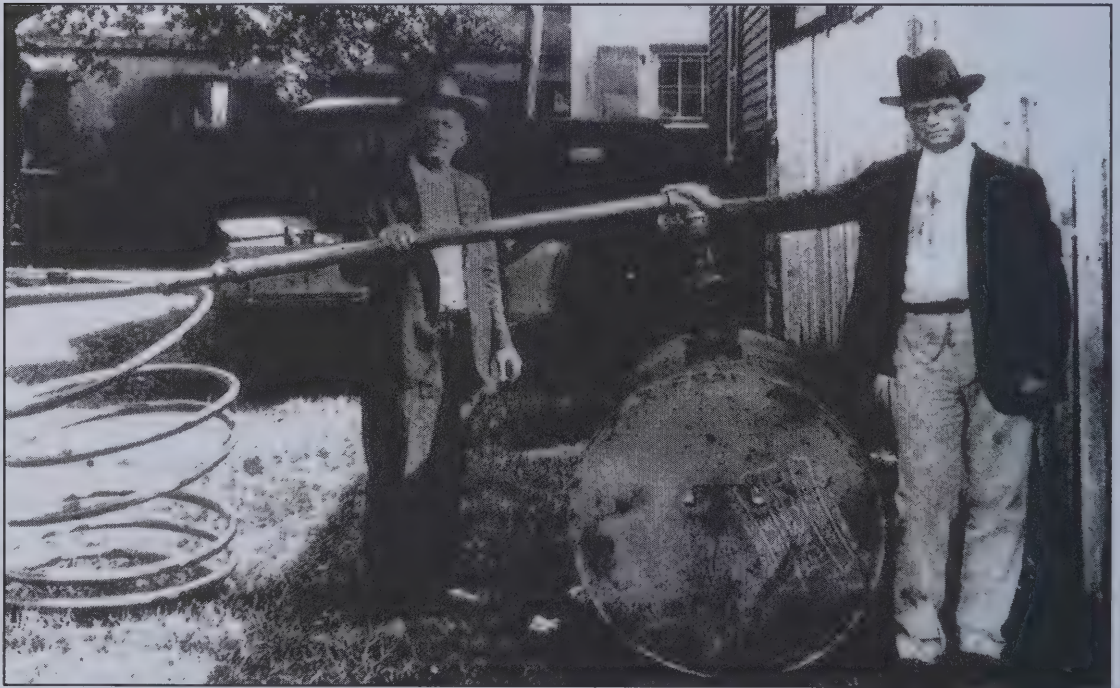


With the new source of illegal income, a marriage between the seashore and the piney woods took place that created a locally respected industry.

Many sawmill workers, after loosing their jobs, became moonshiners. Historian, Charles Sullivan stated that, "Whiskey stills secreted in old sawdust piles, swamp thickets, or underground bunkers, poured forth a deluge of liquor."

The coast developed well-organized armies of hoodlums to slake the thirst of the entire country. Many locals became adventuresome heroes in making or transporting the constantly swelling flood of illegal whiskey.

The decade of the "Roaring Twenties" was fueled with *White Lightning* that was processed at the Kiln and trucked to northern states by Al Capone's henchmen. Cases of *Lightning* were also hidden beneath log-laden rail cars and concealed under poultry or egg-crates.



"In one raid near the Kiln in 1923, four operating stills were destroyed by Revenoores, one of which was so large it could produce 300 gallons in one batch. In 1924, a safety inspector found 1,000 cases of whiskey concealed beneath mounds of chicken-grit labeled Pedigree Crushed Oyster Shells." – quoting Charles Sullivan.

Statistically, Moonshiners garnered a 65-percent repeat-arrest-rate. One fellow bragged having 42 arrests – he simply re-installed his still at his home following each incarceration.

Local law enforcement officers usually winked an eye, leaving the job of seek and destroy to Federal Revenoores.

Quoting from a book by Prieur Leary, he said, "Moonshining was quite an industry in Mississippi during prohibition from 1918 until 1933 and even a number of years afterwards. When you bought a quart, you mostly got it in a Heinz 57 vinegar bottle inside a brown paper bag. I admired the bootleggers because they were hurting the bureaucratic thieves who taxes one heavily for their phoney manipulations. Yes, the moonshiners were a memorable lot compared to the bureaucrats."

### **Moonshiner - Bootlegger by Wayne Ducomb, Jr.**

*(re-written with permission – an Article dated November 13, 1983)*

A former third generation Kiln moonshiner and bootlegger now sells the steel barrels and scrap metal which he used to fashion into stills he once operated throughout Hancock County.

Greg Cuevas, 40, of Cuevas Road in Kiln now is a mild-mannered religious family man who makes a living by selling 55-gallon steel drums and scrap metal. He is also a legitimate welder these days.

Cuevas, a tall burly soft-spoken man, is proud that for almost seven years he has not distilled or drank a drop of alcohol.

Although he has pledged to his family never to engage in that covert and 'exciting' lifestyle again, Cuevas recently recounted his experiences, much as an historical record of one of the last contemporary Kiln moonshiners and bootleggers.

He revealed that up until the evening of January 9, 1977, he was an alcoholic, a fighter, and made or sold all the moonshine whiskey he could. But that night at a Kiln watering hole, Cuevas said a man hugging the bar with a beer in his hand wearily looked up at him and said, *"Doth sayeth the Lord."*

Cuevas said he usually wouldn't have noticed the man or what he had said, but it suddenly dawned on him that he was on rocky ground with his third marriage in his early-thirties, had been arrested three times and convicted once for moonshining, and didn't have a dime to his name – to quote a frequently used phrase, he realized it was time for change.

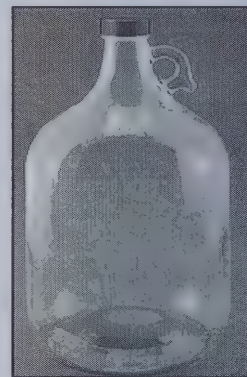
It began when he was a teenager. Cuevas would carry one-gallon glass jugs to and from stills and load trucks with liquor for moonshiners.

He later began to run (transport) loads of whiskey made by local moonshiners with souped-up cars sporting overload springs which allowed large heavy loads to be carried.

He recalled frequently delivering large loads of the clear moonshine to a former Waveland truck-stop where a major national distiller would fill a tractor-trailer rig with Kiln liquor which was then apparently transported to company distilleries for processing to resemble the various liquors "legitimately" sold by the firm.

The truck driver would pay for the Kiln whiskey with a 'pillowcase full of money,' he added.

But after observing several still operations and receiving extra training at home, he decided to begin making his own shine.





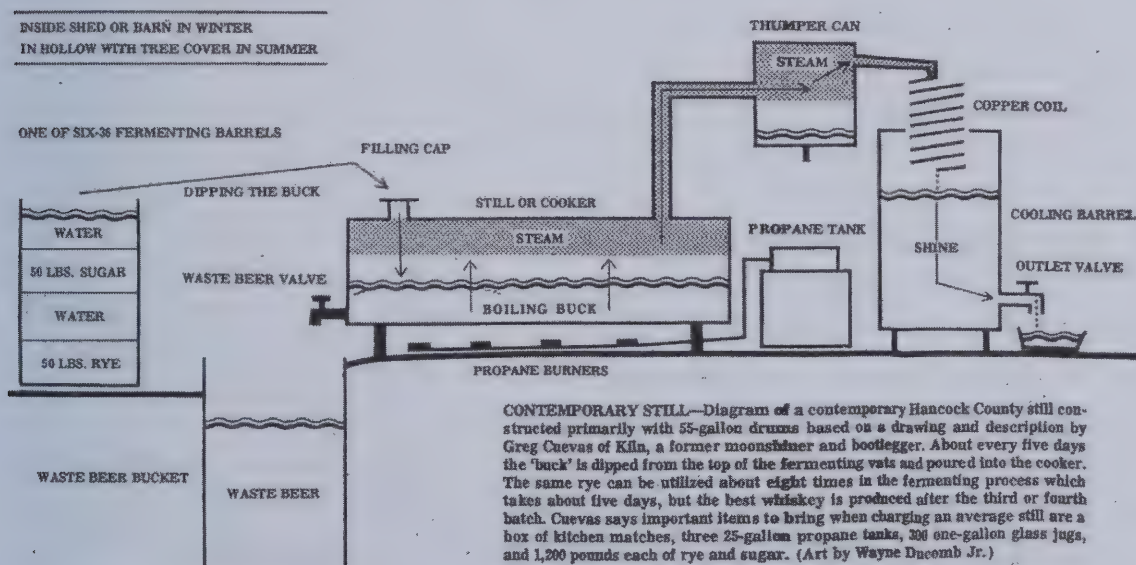
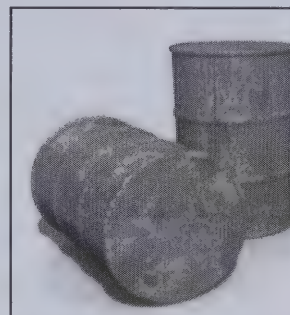
"Moonshining had been a family tradition for 80 or 90 years or more. My father and grandfather both made whiskey, but they never got caught," he stated.

"I did it mainly because of the excitement – everybody looked up to a moonshiner or bootlegger in those days," Cuevas reported.

In the 1960s, the most economical, available, practical and non-toxic way to construct a still was by utilizing 55-gallon steel drums.

The drums were utilized to ferment a mix of rye, sugar and water; boil the 'buck' dipped from the fermenting vats; cool distilled shine; and contain waste 'beer' drawn from the still.

Cuevas learned to weld from cutting open the ends of barrels utilized as fermenting vats, joining drums together to make the still portion of the operation; installing valves, filler caps and pipes in the barrels to complete the system; and by reconstructing stills damaged in raids by federal agents.



**The Diagram above shows a contemporary Hancock County still as drawn by Wayne Ducomb, Jr.**

About every five days the *buck* is dipped from the top of the fermenting vats and poured into the cooker. The same rye can be utilized about eight times in the fermenting process which takes about five days, but the best whiskey is produced after the third or fourth batch.

Cuevas added, "the important items to bring when changing an average still are: a box of kitchen matches, three 25-gallon propane tanks, 300 one-gallon glass jugs, and 1,200 pounds each of rye and sugar.

A hidden or disguised location for the still near a water source was needed.

In the summer, a tree-covered hollow near a small branch, creek, or well was an ideal spot for a still.

The moonshiner would also raise pigs at the still site to eat the waste beer drawn from the cooker.

Cuevas and the reporter hiked to several of the old still locations in the Kiln area, but all that remained of the former moonshiner's operations were rusted, bent and twisted remnants of metal fermenting drums and stills — the result of 'revenoor' explosives.

Although he is a large man, Cuevas easily moved through the thick underbrush with surefootedness and speed.

The "revenoor" — an agent of the Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearm.s Bureau of the U.S. Treasury Department — was the prime adversary of moonshiners and bootleggers.



Cuevas said in his early years as a moonshiner the revenoors utilized unmarked cars and walked on foot to discover and chop up stills with fire axes.

But the government agents later utilized more sophisticated methods including airplane and helicopter searches and explosives to destroy the stills.

At one densely-wooded still-site, Cuevas recounted how he would work under tree-cover while federal aircraft flew in vain searches overhead.

As he pointed and scanned patches of sky through the tree foliage in describing aircraft search patterns, the drone of a small plane flying overhead added an eerie authenticity to his tale.

But the revenoors became more skilled at finding his stills.

"You'd plan on going to work (moonshining) one morning, but then you'd hear a big bang and you knew that was it – you weren't going to work that day," Cuevas reported.

Cuevas estimated that about 20 of some 36 stills he operated, primarily for 'other people,' were destroyed by federal agents.

The ups and downs of the illegal liquor business were common and Cuevas reported that was what destroyed his first two marriages.

"I was a bad drinking alcoholic. I would get drunk at least twice a day – making whiskey and runnin' shine. I would be out all night away from my family – bar hopping and hauling whiskey," he stated.

"I was in trouble constantly with the law. It's a hell of a life. It starts out alright, but then you end up in a lot of trouble," Cuevas said.

He said a modem version of his former lifestyle would probably resemble today's large-scale marihuana grower.

"You don't realize it, but you get hooked on it," Cuevas stated.

In the winter, cold temperatures would not allow fermentation, so the moonshiner would move his still into a barn or shed in which the distilling process would create warmth.



Cuevas humorously recalled one still he operated in an old shed at the family homesite, where he now lives in a modest modern log cabin.

His backyard operation was obvious to everyone except the revenoors.

He said, on a cold winter morning the still-warmed shed would regularly emit a billowing column of steam skyward.

"They never busted that one," he reported and chuckled.

But he wasn't so fortunate with another indoor operation located in a barn near a road in the Lakeshore area.

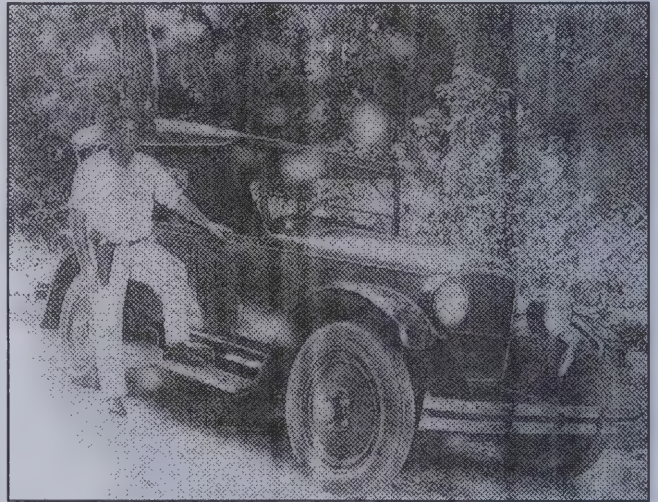
"Hurricane Betsy struck in 1966, and blew the barn doors wide open revealing the still in obvious view of anyone passing on the road, including the revenoors who 'busted' that operation," Cuevas said.

The largest still he operated included 36 fermentation barrels and a large sheet iron cooker, which would process 3,200 pounds of sugar and an equal amount of rye every six days into about 252 gallons of liquor.

Cuevas said his best moonshine was made with wheat or corn, but both of those grains need more fermenting time.

When asked if the institution of the Sugar Law hampered his operations, Cuevas replied, "One time a lady in a grocery store asked me to sign for some sugar and I signed *J Edgar Hoover* (the name of the late Federal Bureau of Investigation founder and chief).

To prevent tracing the ownership of cars and trucks used for transporting shine, the vehicles were registered under the names of dead people, he said.



Cuevas added there was no sex discrimination in the moonshining business because he knew many woman who ran shine.

"Whiskey will give you all the nerve in the world," he said, recalling several hair-raising experiences.

He said while transporting moonshine he had wrecked several cars and was fired upon many times while being chased by State Highway Patrol troopers.

Cuevas vividly recounted car chases in which bullets zinged by before he heard the gun shots and in which he abandoned wrecked vehicles filled with the clear whiskey.

While making moonshine, he once eluded revenoors as they closed in on one of his stills by diving through a large thick patch of thorny Cherokee rose bushes.

"It looked like a bobcat had gotten a hold of me," he stated, regarding scratches he suffered all over his body in addition to all his clothing, except his pants, being torn off by the thorn bushes.

Cuevas said he did not know how many times he ran for miles through woods and swamps, and swam rivers and bayous to escape the federal agents.

He reported he was always shot at, "but all moonshiners knew revenoors always fired blanks for effect."

"Once I ran right over a large water moccasin," he stated.

He recalled, "one time agents closed in on me while I was operating a still near Texas Flat Road. So to elude the revenoors I ran through the woods, swam Jourdan River and ended up several miles north on Hwy. 43."

There he hid in the woods because he spotted revenoors riding up and down the road in his truck honking the horn vainly hoping to draw Cuevas out to the road.

"I swam about half the bayous in Shoreline Park," Cuevas said regarding other chases.

He also swam across Jourdan River for awhile twice daily to operate a still. "I didn't know there were alligators in the river, then," Cuevas admitted.

He humorously recalled one day when a New Orleans Boy Scout troop stumbled upon him operating a still . . . the scoutmaster asked me to explain to the boys how the still worked, so I showed them everything and explained the operation," he said.

Needless to say, Cuevas moved the still that evening.

Even the largest still could be moved overnight by two or three men, he said.

"The bootleggers' best customers lived in central Mississippi counties where liquor possession is illegal – and also in Louisiana," he said.

"But we didn't make it (moonshine) anywhere except on the Coast where local law enforcement would allow it," he stated.

"The big bootleggers never touched the stuff (moonshine), but they got all the money and we (moonshiners) ended up working in the swamp all night," Cuevas said in noting why he also became a bootlegger.

He estimated it cost the moonshiner about \$2 to distill one gallon of liquor, but the final retail value was about \$32 by the time the moonshine was transported and sold in one-fifth gallon bottles.

"It was the sucker at the end of the line, who drank it, and who paid all the money, so we didn't get our share." Cuevas stated.

But in the late 1960's, competition between moonshiners got dirty, law enforcement got tough, and buying quantities of sugar became more difficult.

Cuevas said, "at that time 16 stills were operating in the Kiln area alone."

Some (rival) moonshiners began telling federal agents the location of other stills to reduce competition. So Cuevas moved to Texas to try to reform himself, but said moonshining was in his blood and he began making whiskey in that state too.



"It would get into your blood to do it (moonshine). You'd do it just to hear those burners roaring," he stated.

"Why work at Ingalls for a whole week when you could run shine and get the same amount of money in one or two days and stay drunk all the time," Cuevas said, regarding his former obsession.

But when the law began to move in on Cuevas in Texas, he returned to Kiln with his third wife – only to find that law enforcers and judges were becoming tougher here too.

While Cuevas was operating a still in Hancock, federal agents and County Sheriffs Department deputies surprised him while he was carrying two jugs of shine.

Cuevas said it's impossible to release a glass jug without placing it down, so when he saw the agents, he just smashed the bottles together.

For the first time, Cuevas was caught red-handed and decided at that moment he had to do something to encourage himself to try to change.

"I broke the bottles I had in my hands and showed them how to tear up a still," he stated.

"I took an ax and chopped up the still myself with precision strokes, because I had to patch so many of them when the revenoors tore them up," Cuevas remarked.

Cuevas proudly asserted that during various raids made by federal agents on his shine, that tests proved his liquor to be equal in quality and purity to any legally-sold liquor.



Following arrest, he was convicted and placed on probation, but that didn't stop him from pursuing his obsession until that night of January 9, 1977, at the Kiln bar.

Cuevas said that that evening, he asked the man at the bar to follow him outside to witness him kneel by a car to ask God's forgiveness.

"The next day I started going to church at Victory Baptist Church (near the White Cypress Community)," he stated.

He said his wife is a supportive religious person who welcomed his reformation.

They are parents of four children today – happily living at their Kiln home.

### **Floating Saloons and Fruit Peddlers**

During the heyday of River Sawmills, Italian fruit peddlers from New Orleans would maneuver their barges upriver to sell their wares door to door.

There were also "floating saloons" which operated on the Louisiana side of the river when Mississippi law prohibited alcoholic sales. Taxi boats were pressed into service to carry the flourishing bar-trade back and forth.

Coast Historian Charles Sullivan wrote, "By mid-1920s the Gulf Coast had outstripped the Canadian border and the East Coast as an entrepot for liquor, and the government pegged the wholesale yearly value of the contraband passing through the area at \$1.5 million."

"The repeal of Prohibition in 1933 ended the coast's national standing as an illegal liquor supplier. However, state and local trade continued for another 33 years before Mississippi ended its Dry laws."

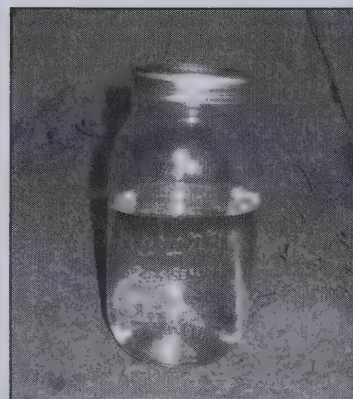
Illegal places or joints that sold liquor were known as "Blind Tigers".

## **After Moonshining**

For the most part, the Kiln and Mississippi moonshining days are quite in the past. Notwithstanding, State laws and the economics of business have evolved since 1978 to condone such operations providing they get permits and licenses and pay taxes – resulting today in craft-breweries and craft-distilleries.

Since 1978, the American Homebrewers Association has worked on behalf of the homebrewing community and celebrates a membership of more than 37,000 homebrewers.

Homebrewers in all 50 states can now legally take part in active business.



### **Federal Law History**

On January 16, 1919, the 18th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified, banning the manufacture, sale and transportation of alcohol (Prohibition), including beer made at home.

The 21st Amendment repealed Prohibition in 1933 – however, the repeal's legislation mistakenly left out the legalization of home beer making (home wine making was legalized at that time).

On October 14, 1978, President Jimmy Carter signed the bill which contained an amendment creating an exemption from taxation of beer brewed at home for personal or family use. This exemption went into effect on February 1, 1979, making homebrewing legal on a federal level in the U.S.



## State Laws

Although homebrewing was legal on both the federal and state levels in the U.S., the 21st Amendment predominantly left regulation of alcohol to the individual states. Thus each states' laws regarding homebrewing vary widely. Some states have very specific laws that outline exactly what can and cannot be done with homebrew, while others are vague. Some states limit consumption of homebrew solely to the residence where it was brewed, while others allow for transportation of homebrew to events such as competitions and club meetings.

Mississippi and Alabama were the last two states to legalize homebrewing. Alabama law went into effect on May 9, 2013 – leaving Mississippi to be the last state in the union to put the law into effect on July 1, 2013.

For a century, Mississippi and other Southern states had Prohibition-era laws on the books that kept alcohol-by-volume (ABV) levels so low that many craft breweries were prevented from setting up shop.

When Mark Henderson and his wife Leslie founded *Lazy Magnolia* in 2003, it was the first brewery to open in Mississippi since 1907. And it was the state's only brewery until the laws changed nine years later.

"We got started and it was all very challenging," said Henderson, who could only make and distribute beer below 6% ABV. That meant no gourmet Belgian ales, IPAs, or barrel-aged beers, which are all made with more alcohol (and are often how a brewery is judged by connoisseurs).

"Our consumers expected a good brewery to have a good, showcase IPA," said Leslie Henderson. "We were fundamentally prevented from introducing the single most necessary style of beer for a craft brewery."

A few years ago, that started to change. In July 2012, Mississippi raised its ABV allotment to 10.2%. Since then, eight new breweries and one brewpub sprung up in the state.

"The law liberalized a little bit, and we saw this explosion of breweries in Mississippi," said Henderson.

And Lazy Magnolia has seen business boom. Since 2013, it has expanded its offerings, doubled its staff from 16 to 33 employees and now distributes throughout the entire Gulf Coast.

### **About Lazy Magnolia and its enterprising Owners**



**Leslie and Mark in the Cellar**

Lazy Magnolia Brewing Company is the brain-child of Mark and Leslie Henderson. Born and raised in Mississippi, the couple met in college and moved to the Gulf Coast in 2000 to pursue careers in engineering.

The first steps toward the founding of Lazy Magnolia happened one Christmas when Leslie purchased Mark a homebrew kit – because she couldn't think of anything else to get him! Mark reflects that it was very similar to the time his little sister bought him a Cabbage Patch Doll for Christmas – as it turned out, Leslie really didn't buy the kit for him.

Mark only got to brew one batch of beer before Leslie took over the brewing operations leaving Mark to design new equipment, tools, and gadgets to make the brewing process go smoother. It didn't take long before this hobby began to take over the house and all of their free time. "We were brewing twice every weekend, and we were giving away almost everything that we brewed to friends," laments Leslie. The house was completely taken over with 5-gallon glass jugs, copper heat exchangers, and bubbling buckets of beer as they explored dozens of variations on their own special recipes.

Friends and family were so impressed with the homemade creations that they encouraged the couple to go "pro." Many even offered to invest in such a venture. At this point Mark and Leslie started doing some serious research to answer some basic questions about the legal status of breweries in Mississippi and the potential market for specialty beer in the state. Much to their surprise, all answers came back positive. The time seemed to be ripe for Mississippi to join the rest of the nation in the craft beer revolution.





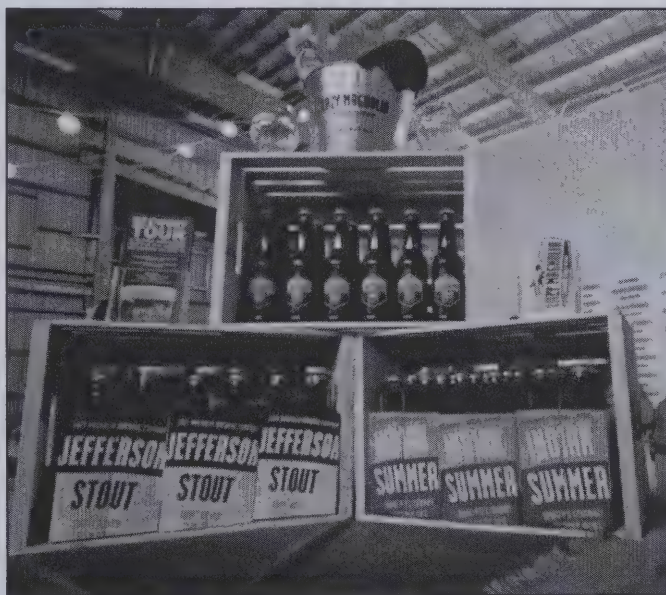
Leslie entered the **American Brewers Guild Brewing School** in July 2003 and followed up with an apprenticeship at **Crescent City Brewhouse** in the spring of 2004.

Meanwhile Mark was hard at work developing a business plan, performing market research, designing logos, securing financing, and searching for just the right location for the company. Leslie worked on recipe development and searched the nation for high quality brewing equipment to scale up the recipes from 5-gallons to 500-gallons per batch.

The schedule progressed rapidly after Leslie's internship. A building was secured in September 2004; the brewing equipment was delivered in October and fully set-up by December. The dream became a reality in January 2005, when the first batch of beer was brewed on the Lazy Magnolia system. The first kegs of beer hit the market on the Gulf Coast in March 2005. Hurricane Katrina briefly shut down operations and destroyed the couple's home, but beer was flowing again by October.

As of June 2006, Lazy Magnolia was distributing beers throughout Mississippi.

"Since then, in addition to our home-state, you can now find our delicious brews in your favorite bars, restaurants, and local retailers throughout the South and surrounding states, including: MS, AL, LA, TX, GA, FL, SC, OH, KY, IL, NY, MO, AR, TN, VA, and KS," proudly remarks Leslie.



## **Brett Favre - Superstar**

Historian, S. Grady Thigpen, Sr. wrote that, "Kiln was famous for two things: one of the biggest and best sawmills in the country and for its '*moonshine*' whiskey."

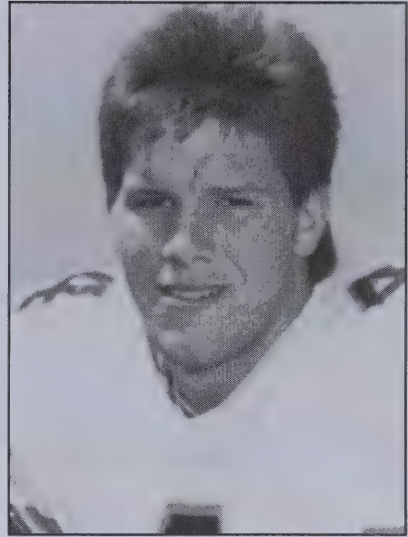
A prolific writer of history, Thigpen was born in 1890 and passed on in 1981. He was just a few years short of being able to include the Kiln's third marker of fame – Brett Favre.

In January 1998, at the tender age of 28, standing 6'2, and weighing 225, Favre had already accomplished greatness. He's the first player to have four consecutive seasons with 30 or more touchdown passes. He's the first player to win three consecutive "NFL Most Valuable Player" awards.

Describing Brett Favre's early youth, Richard Meek, Editor of the Hancock County Sea Coast Echo reported that former Hancock North Central Junior High coach Joe Shaw remembers the following play as if it was yesterday's highlight.

"With time running out, and 85 yards separating the junior high Hawks from a conference championship, freshman quarterback Brett Favre huddled with Shaw, searching for a bit of magic. Seconds later, a Favre pass to Charles Burton gave the Hawks the victory and the championship.

"In three years, from seventh through ninth grades, Favre led the junior Hawks to a 29-2 record. He has a knack of winning. He made people around him play better," added Shaw. He was a winner – You can't teach that."



Meek further reported that "Shaw and Rocky Gaudin, the Hawks head coach credited with rebuilding Hancock in the post-Favre era, served on the same staff when Irvin Favre coached his son at Hancock. Gaudin said the one quality he remembers about Favre is his leadership. "His strong suit was his ability to lead," Gaudin said. "He always had a never say die attitude. He was a fierce competitor and had a strong arm, but he gave no indication of future NFL stardom."

Reporting on parental influence, Ellis Cuevas, Publisher of the *Sea Coast Echo*, described Brett's early years, ". . . as a youthful athlete, his parents watched the self disciplines Brett had placed on himself. He would run the dirt roads on a regular basis."

"Brett graduated from Hancock North Central in 1987, which came into existence in 1959 with the consolidation of Kiln, Sellers, Caesar, and Dedeaux schools."

"Brett's father, Irvin Favre, of French and Choctaw Indian decent, resides with the family on Rotten Bayou, which was known by the Indians as *Baneshewah* meaning Rotten Bayou. It is located in the small



community of Fenton adjacent to the Kiln. The name Baneshewah translates to Rotten Bayou. The Indians used the waters of the bayou to clean fish and wild game which they caught. As deer and other animals were cleaned, their skins were dried by being stretched out on poles hanging over the bayou. In time, the waste collected along the banks began to decay and stink, thus the name — *Baneshewah*.

Coach Irvin Favre retired from the school after 25 years, including one as an assistant. He also served two years at St. John and two years at Long Beach for a total of 29 years in coaching.

"Bonita French Favre is a 1962 graduate of St. Joseph's Academy in Bay St. Louis and received a master's degree in education. She taught school for 19 years before retiring to take charge of Brett's financial enterprises.

"The parents are proud to broadcast that "if a little kid who comes out of Hancock County, Kiln, Mississippi with a population not all that great, then, somebody else can do the same."

"They are proud of each of their children. Brett Lorenzo Favre is the middle son of Irvin and Bonita Favre. Their other sons, Scott and Jeff, and daughter Brandi have also participated in sports. Scott played quarterback at Mississippi State and Jeff was a quarterback at Hancock and later played as safety at Southern Mississippi. Brett is married to his long time sweetheart, Deanna Tynes and they have one daughter, Brittany.



*Queen of Mardi Gras  
Pass Christian*

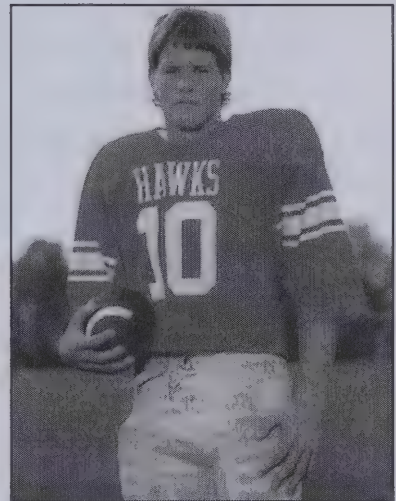
"When Brett Favre graduated from Hancock North Central in 1987, Favre's father, Irvin Favre was his high school coach, who remembered that Brett only had two offers from small colleges and one junior college, and was way down the list on the University of Southern Mississippi's quarterback recruiting list.

"Only when a large number of USM prospects signed with other schools that Brett was selected, and that was just as a defensive player."

"Because both Irvin Favre and his wife, Bonita, are graduates of USM, they were eager for Brett to attend the Hattiesburg school. Irvin stated that his son's attending USM *"was the best thing that ever happened for him. Brett got lucky, they offered him a scholarship and he signed it,"* Favre said."



*Brett's Senior Night win*



***Extracted from an article written by Rob Demovsky***  
*NFL reporter covers the Green Bay Packers*

In the book "10 to 4", Coach Mark McHale detailed how he discovered Favre and how he was the only college coach (University of Southern Mississippi) to recruit him. McHale relates that he still wonders what made him reconsider and take another trip to the backwoods of Kiln, Miss.

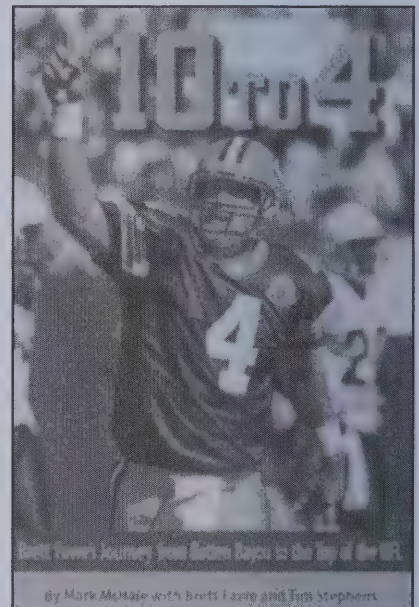
Favre's foray into big-time football probably never should have happened. McHale was in his first season as an assistant coach at Southern Mississippi. His recruiting area included Kiln and the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Working off a list of potential recruits compiled by the previous offensive line coach, Bill D'Andrea, who left for Clemson, McHale set out to find players, including quarterbacks.

**Favre was nowhere on his list.**

"I'm down there on the Gulf Coast and some assistant coaches asked me, 'Have you seen that quarterback at Hancock North Central?'" McHale said. "So I checked my master list, and he wasn't on there, so I just said, 'Well, I trust the guy who had been through this area before me.' Then I heard it a second time and when I heard it a third time, I looked up Hancock North Central and called the head coach. So that's where it started."

**The head coach was Brett's father, Irvin.**

Knowing next to nothing about the Favres, McHale showed up at the high school eager to find out why those nearby coaches talked him up. He sat down at a desk inside a rickety fieldhouse where Irvin Favre had his coaching office. There were tapes scattered about, and McHale settled in to watch. "I didn't see anything," McHale said."





**Irvin exclaimed, "That's my quarterback, coach."**

All of a sudden, Irvin caught Brett out of the corner of his eye on the side of the fieldhouse, and Brett was there lifting weights. Brett looked me right in the eye and shook my hand and said, 'Coach, I can play for you,' just oozing with confidence."

Recruiting rules prevented McHale from talking to high school players at that time, so McHale shook the young quarterback's hand and left.

"Driving out of there, I was going back over my recruiting like I always did, and I couldn't get him out of my mind. I said, 'There's something about this kid. I've got to check him out.'" McHale called back and promised he'd come to a game. After watching Favre throw some of the hardest, deepest passes he'd ever seen in pre-game warm-ups, he couldn't wait for the game to begin.

**"The boy's got an arm," McHale said.**

"Now let me see if he can play. But then in the game, it was the same as on the tapes. He didn't throw the ball."

At halftime, McHale recalled that a group of fans were yelling at Irvin for his play calling. McHale only later discovered those fans were all Favre family members. Even they knew a game like that wasn't going to be enough to convince a college recruiter that Favre was worth a scholarship. McHale conveyed that to Irvin, who convinced him to come back a second time. That time, Favre threw only four passes in the first half.

Again disappointed, McHale decided to stay for the second half only because it was too late to get to another game. Finally, McHale saw what he wanted to see. On a broken play in the

second half, Favre scrambled and unloaded a pass that he said "had flames and smoke coming off it."

"When I saw him in that second game," McHale said, "I said, 'This boy's got an NFL arm, period, end of discussion. Now, let's get him on campus.'"

### **A Recruiters Determination**

That wasn't easy. McHale had to present a case to the rest of the coaching staff just to get Favre's name on their recruiting board. He showed the tapes to other members of the staff and most dismissed Favre. Meanwhile, Irvin kept badgering McHale, saying Brett had an offer from Delta State, a small school in Cleveland, Miss.

"There was no scholarship from Delta State," McHale said.

"Irvin was trying to push us, but he had absolutely nothing — not a single offer from anyone.

*When I talked to Brett for the book, he didn't remember anybody at Delta State offering him anything."*

By then, McHale was convinced Favre could play at Southern Miss. "We'd be in those recruiting meetings and I would get all jacked up about Brett," McHale said. "Jim Carmody, the head coach, would say, 'Mark, can he play another position? If we get him in as a quarterback, and he can't play quarterback, is he athletic enough to play something else?' I told him that Brett could play safety, tight end or linebacker."

Still, there was no scholarship for Favre even after his official visit. Three days later, on the eve of the signing day, a linebacker from Atlanta whose name no one can remember turned down Southern Miss. Carmody asked McHale if "that Favre boy" was still available because "I'd like to put him in

that defensive slot that we lost."

"The thinking was he'd come in and be a safety," McHale said. Favre thought otherwise. After a decent showing in a preseason scrimmage, Favre thought he was ready to play but opened the season as the No. 3 quarterback.

"We opened with Alabama, and he's all excited," McHale said. "It's his first college game, and he comes up to me in the locker room and says, 'Coach, I'm ready. I'm ready.' Well that sucker doesn't know what a play is. So before the next game against Tulane, he did the same thing. And I was literally kidding but said, 'By golly you better be ready Brett Favre because your butt's going in.' And he started running around the locker room going, 'Oh my God, Oh my God.'"

Unbeknownst to anyone but Carmody, Favre was about to get his chance.

"The way he performed in August, I knew he was going to play," Carmody said. "But he was a young freshman. He was 17, and I didn't think a 17-year old should start against Alabama. That's when they were really good, and I didn't want to put him under that pressure."

Southern Miss got drilled 38-6 in the season opener, prompting Carmody to accelerate his plan to play Favre even though he knew his young quarterback knew only a fraction of the plays. "I didn't discuss it with anyone," Carmody said, "but I felt like if we didn't get the ball moving against Tulane, I was going to put him into the game."

## **September 19, 1987**

The game was tied 14-14 at halftime and when Tulane made it 21-14 early in the third quarter, Favre got the call.

In the third quarter, coach Jim Carmody, frustrated by his offense's ineptitude, did the heretofore unthinkable:



He called the press box and told offensive coordinator Jack White that he was putting Favre - a 17-year-old freshman - into the game at quarterback.

On his first drive, Favre led Southern Miss down the field and threw a touchdown, running around and celebrating like a madman.

He threw another touchdown and led Southern Miss to a 31-24 victory without "really knowing what he was doing," according to McHale.



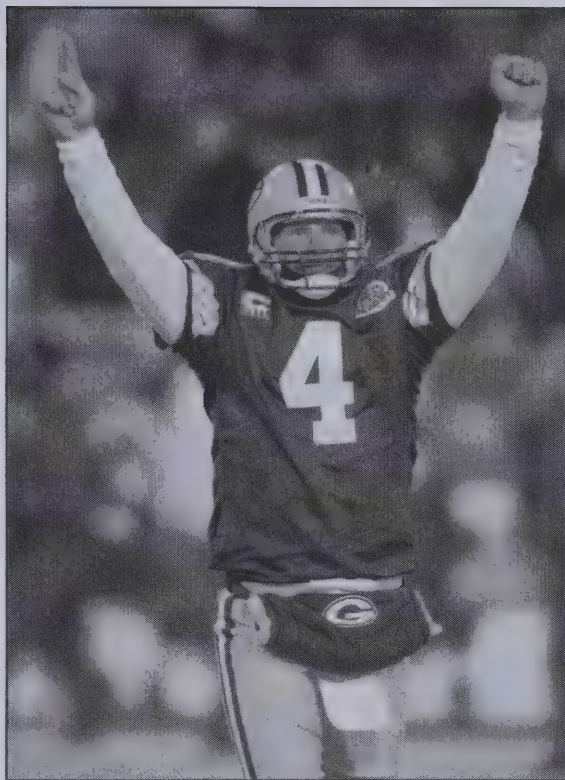
## **Ode to Brett**

*by Aline Courrage, Bay St Louis, MS*

He was born the second son of Bonita and Irvin  
He was blessed from the beginning with the caring and serving  
He grew up in the Kiln with all the local boys  
But knew early in his life his first love wasn't toys  
When his friends were out swimming, skiing and camping  
He was home with his Dad just a throwing and a ramping  
His early love of sports brought him on to the game  
And Lord, was it tough with a coach the same name  
Yes, his Dad was his coach, his idol, his hero  
And taught him it's all right if you only score zero  
If you've done your best and gave it your all  
You'll have lots of wins but take some great falls  
He worked very hard to become the very best  
And not only played for himself but all of the rest  
He finished up in high school with number of a champ  
And moved on to Southern where he left a great stamp  
He was destined for greatness and went on to the pros  
To gather the knowledge of the yes'es and no's  
He worked like a Trojan, fought like a trooper  
Played with the Falcons of which was super  
But then came the day he was off on his way  
To the greatest of great to Packers Green Bay  
It didn't take long for the fans to know  
We've got us a quarterback and his number is FOUR  
He passed and he ran, he faked and he gained  
And couldn't keep him down, sleet, snow or rain  
He gave us a record of which we were proud  
Then won us the title that we shouted aloud  
Now it's off to New Orleans to Bowl 31  
With his friends from the Kiln all there for the fun  
He had lots of problems seemed never to end  
But never let it stop the man that's within  
He's strong, he's courageous, he's at the top of the chart  
And win, lose or draw, he's stuck in our hearts  
Yes, we love you Brett, you've risen so high  
And when you take your ring Sunday  
We surely will cry.

In another article about Brett Favre's family, Ellis Cuevas reported that, "Green Bay's star quarterback Brett Favre's mother, father, wife and brother are all involved in his business and charity activities.

"The elders have long participated in community charity fundraising and are adept at business management. Irvin runs *Favre Agricultural* on Brett's cattle farm raising prized Black Angus cows. Bonita is in charge of *Favre's Enterprises* which simply puts Brett's personal money to work in various projects. Brother Scott runs *Favre Property Management* based in Diamondhead, which manages



apartments, condos and other commercial real estate. Younger brother Jeff is an accountant active in a Wisconsin bank. Brett's wife, Deanna manages the *Favre Forward Foundation*, a philanthropic organization, and his sister Brandi is a student at Southern Mississippi.

Under the Favre Family Christmas tree in 1996 were two Super Bowl XXXI rings made for his parents. Inside, the rings were engraved with, "Thanks, Mom" and "Thanks, Dad".

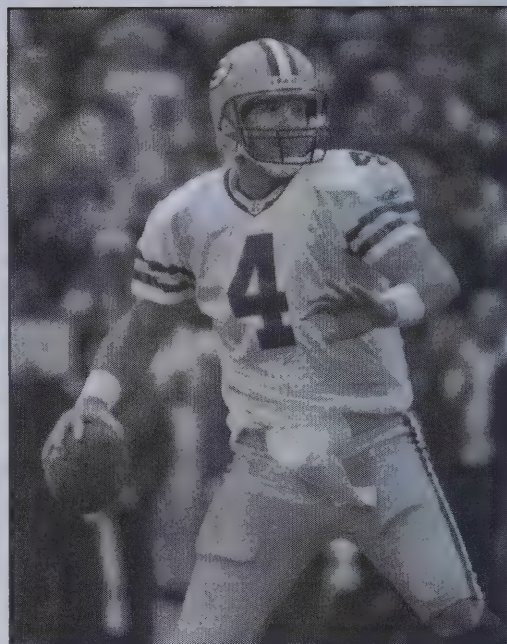
Not as hectic as the year before, but even during the week before Super Bowl XXXII, many out-of-state Packer fans and tourists dropped in to talk to Irvin and Bonita in quest of 3-time-MVP, Favre's roots.

Irvin summed up the family attitude towards visitors, "Id like for people to say, *They were pretty darn nice to us*. I guess they figure if they can't get to Brett, they'll get to the family."



## **Brett Favre - Role Model**

Of great interest, was the second year for students at Hancock North Central Elementary School to celebrate by having a pep-rally for their celebrity hero and the Packers. Led by their teachers as cheerleaders, they were prone to have fun and exhibit their knowledge of the game and the players. The youngsters were not only interested in the stats of their superstar, but they also sought to know about his personal life-style, his food choices, and answers to questions such as, "Is he afraid of the dark?" (His father, Irvin, states that corn stew is Brett's favorite choice and no, he's not afraid of the dark.)



During these times and with the sensitive age of elementary school children, their icon can serve as a great role model for them. Not just the challenge of excelling in the interest of football, but in modeling their lives for the future.

Taking heed from biblical scriptures, (the Apostle) Paul had been an avid fan of Greek Olympics. Often he would draw from the sportsmen of his times by paralleling a story to emphasize or demonstrate his point. In emphasizing the need of discipline in living a good life, Paul asked, "Do you know that all the runners run the race, but only one wins the prize? His point was that discipline in religious practice is absolutely necessary.

Brett Favre is a perfect example in demonstrating how discipline, training, self-sacrifice and self-denial has resulted in his athletic prowess and successes in life. At the same time, his modesty and truthfulness does

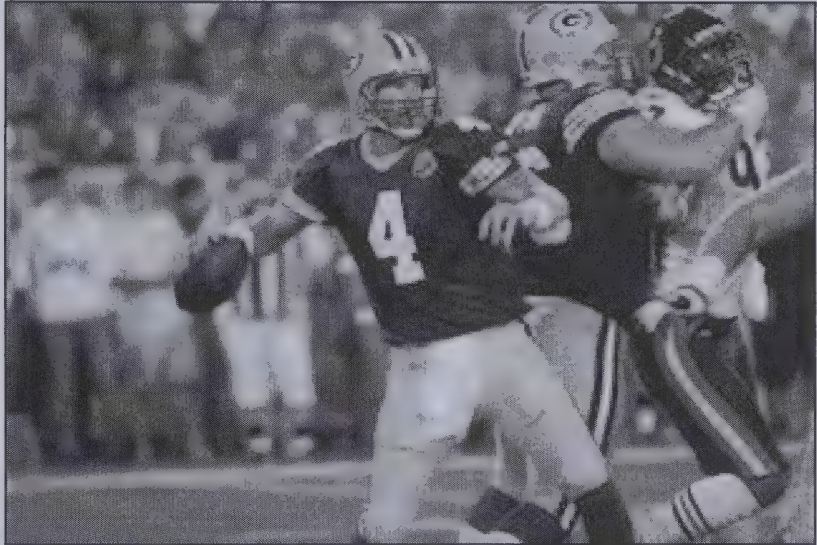


not let him deny his mistakes as he has overcome his troubles and misfortunes. In his words, he recognizes his highs and his lows. He also recognizes that God rewards those who use their God-given talents.

### **The Day of XXXI**

On the eve of Super Bowl XXXI, Brett told reporters, "I'm pretty relaxed. I'm enjoying this — I'm ready to play!"

Just 50 miles away at the Kiln, Favre continued to be the subject of an intense media and Packer faithful blitz. Having camped out for several days at



the Kiln they were wanting to walk in the steps of Favre's past. Almost everyone who knew the Green Bay star was stopped for an interview

"It was an awesome sight to see the fans completely engulf this otherwise calm and sleepy town," said Marsha Theriot Favre. A great number of locals were on hand acting as proud ambassadors to our guests, teaching them how to eat crawfish and explaining how jambalaya is made. It was a proud moment in time for the Kiln and the locals really displayed their version of true Southern hospitality. Quite an achievement considering the rivers of liquid refreshments being consumed," she added.

When Brett was asked about the hullabaloo at the Kiln, he remarked that, "It's a little wild. It's great. Usually at this time of year, they're boiling crawfish."

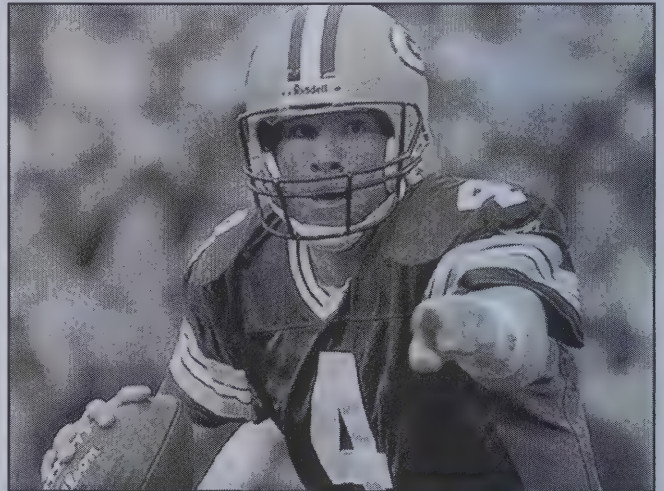
Despite the Packers being heavy favorites, and he being touted as a cinch to win MVP honors, Favre was taking nothing for granted. "I think the way the Patriots mix up coverages is probably better than anyone we've played this year," Favre said. "I think it will be an interesting matchup how we run our pass routes against those guys," he added.

"In order to experience the highs and to be in the position that I'm in today, I had to go through a lot of lows," Favre said. "I think a lot of people can say that. It's not rosy for everybody.

"As you go through the tough times, you're mad, you're sad, you're angry and all of that. But when you're in the Super Bowl, you appreciate it. You really wouldn't (appreciate it) if you didn't go through the hard times," he reflected.

### **Super Bowl XXXI Victory**

Sea Coast Echo, Editor, Richard Meek reported that, "For a brief period on Sunday afternoon, what was supposed to be Brett Favre's stake in the promised land of football fame appeared headed for another Dallas-style catastrophe. But, Favre quickly righted himself from a rough start and displayed the maturity that has taken him from Kiln to the Louisiana Superdome and Super Bowl XXXI.



"The Hancock County native completed only two of his first eight attempts for a meager 16 yards. The misfires were not even close, and



Favre admitted he was "embarrassed." But he then went on a tear, driving the Packers to five consecutive scores against a much-heralded Panther defense. By the time Chris Jacke's third field goal provided the exclamation point, Green Bay's cheese-heads were already packing for Bourbon Street.

"Favre's performance was one of his most masterful, especially when considering the lofty stakes. In the swashbuckling style of fellow southerner

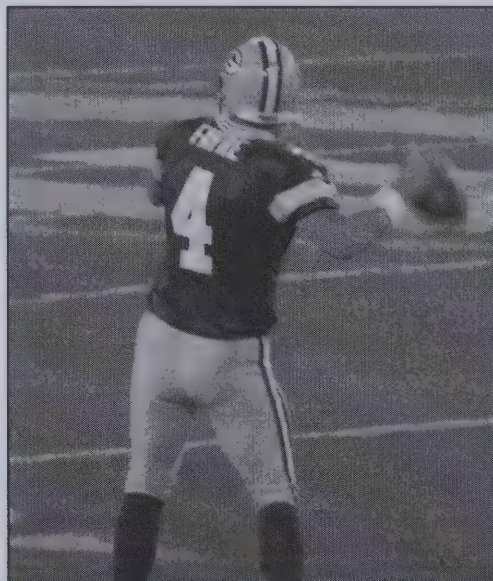
Joe Namath, Favre boldly predicted a Super Bowl victory for the Packers even before the season began, causing more than a few of Mike Holmgren's mustache hairs to twitch. But, Favre backed up his words as he realized that Super Bowl victories are the yardstick for greatness.

"The Mission was complete. The journey that had taken Brett Favre from the playing fields of Kiln to the Louisiana Superdome had reached its end. Favre ruled the football kingdom as he accounted for three touchdowns in Green Bay's 35-21 drubbing of New England.

Favre's after-the-game comments were, "To win this – it's unbelievable. It's hard to even talk about. It definitely makes this past year seem a little better."

## **The Day of XXXII**

When posed with the thought of a back-to-back win in two consecutive Super Bowl games, Brett modestly remarked, "That's important. I think every player should think about things like that because this is a big game. When you think about who's played in it and what they've accomplished and that I can be part of it, it's kind of beyond thinking for me."





"I want it just as bad as I did last year," Favre said. "It hasn't changed one bit. Anytime you get a taste of it, you want it again. I want to win this game and then I can say I just put my name in the history books with some great people."

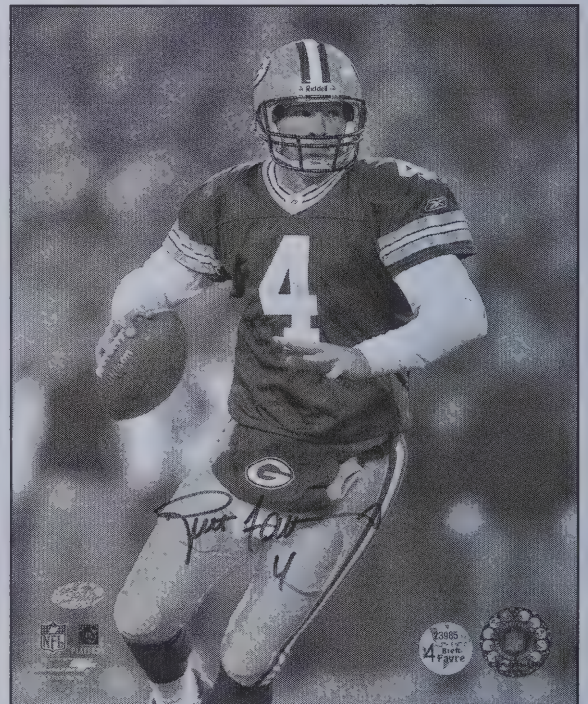
A quarterback can't do it alone . . . which shows how fortunate I am to be surrounded by good players and good coaches."

Jokingly he remarked in his sometimes cocky manner, "I still tend to get a little reckless at times," Favre admitted, "but that's my style. The other night I had a dream I threw a touchdown pass against the Broncos – left handed. I'm really having a good time. Why not? I'm doing what I've been doing since fifth grade – play football – and I'm getting paid plenty of money to do it."

### **Brett Favre – 1998 Statistics**

Green Bay quarterback, Favre, Brett, age 28 a three-time NFL Most Valuable Player. A Will to Win. Traded to Green Bay in the Spring of 1992 from the Atlanta Falcons. – 24 interceptions and 19 touchdowns in '93, – 14 interceptions in '94.

His personal coach, Steve Mariucci, now with the San Francisco 49ers, stated that, "It wasn't happening the way he wanted it to, so he was a little bit at the cross roads. He was very frustrated. He was either going to go into the tank or be the best quarterback in the league. He chose to let 'er rip and he played very well the rest of that year ('94) and he hasn't looked back.

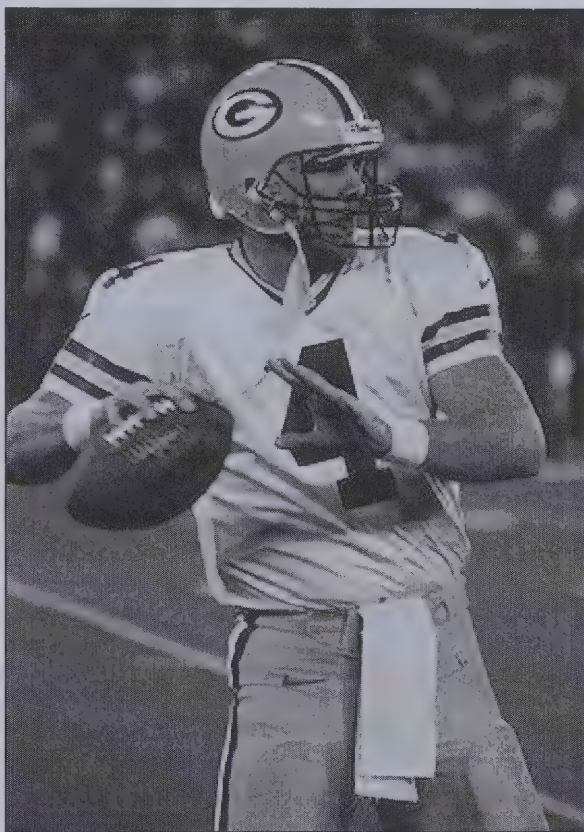


Favre became a superstar in 1995, throwing 38 touchdown passes to win his first MVP award and lead Green bay to the NFC championship game. Proud as can be are his wife, Deanna and daughter Brittany.

Great isn't good enough for Favre. Brett is the only quarterback in league history to throw 30 or more touchdown passes in four straight seasons.

Relentless, daring with linebacker mentalities. Great scrambler Favre can find open receivers with his exalted ability to escape defenders. Nobody throws harder than Favre. Fearless, never-say-die attitude. Ability to turn a broken play into a jaw-dropper.

The 1998 game play showed an exalted No. 4, the first player to go back-to-back as league MVP, passed 222 yards to beat the 49ers 23-10 and lead the reigning NFL champs back to the Super Bowl. Champions of Super Bowl XXXI and for a second straight run, ready for Super Bowl XXXII. In 1997 at New Orleans, the Packers team wrenched its first championship since Super Bowl II.



Paul Hornung called Favre "a throwback" who would have fit right into the Vince Lombardi dynasty. "He's the consummate leader with the toughness to go with the talent. The other players love playing for a guy like him!"

"I've always felt I play good in big games," Favre stated following his completion of 16 of 27 passes for 222 yards and a touchdown. I knew today that it was do or die!"

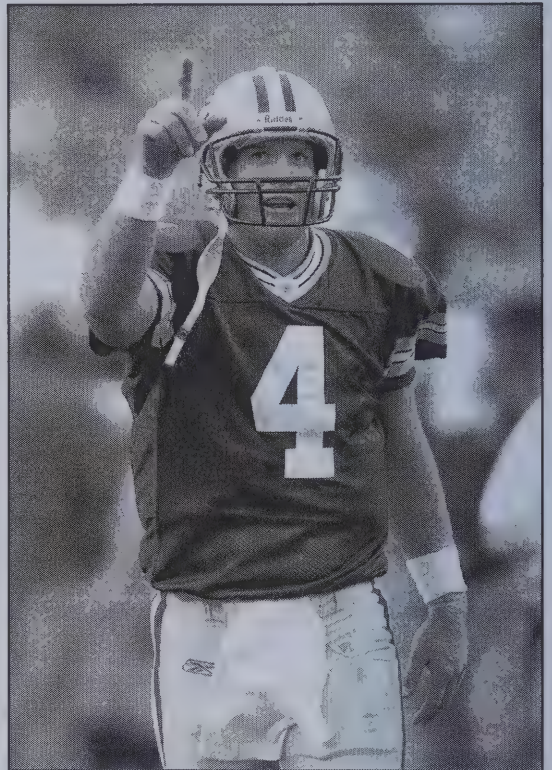


"He has the attitude that every quarterback should have," Packers president Robert Harlan said. "The players admire him. They want to work for him." "He has a great competitive desire," Harlan said. "He's the most valuable player."

Green Bay coach Mike Holmgren stated, "He's a tough quarterback to play against and all of the receivers feel pretty good about the job he does getting them the ball."

## **Go Packers, Go**

In January 1998, as the Green Bay Packers unloaded at San Diego International Airport amongst flag waving fans bearing a Packers helmet logo, Coach Mike Holmgren prepared his team with an announcement. The team would not get a day free from practice during the week before their second Super Bowl treat. On top of that, he curfewed them with a 1 a.m. bed check and reminded them to envision their second diamond-encrusted Super Bowl ring that would be specially carved and set just for each of them. The Packers were seeking to break tradition by becoming the second team to repeat as Super Bowl champs.



Super Bowl XXXII brought the NFL's two strongest arms to challenge each other on one field of play at Qualcomm Stadium. The powerful right arms of Brett Favre and John Elway. Both seasoned men, Elway at 37 and



Favre at 28 were set to do battle. Both, can fire missile ejection thrusts with propelling velocities. Both quarterbacks can throw timing routes while withholding ejection release to pin-pointed receivers of their optimum choice. "They can get balls in places that other guys can't," as some dislocated-finger receivers can attest.

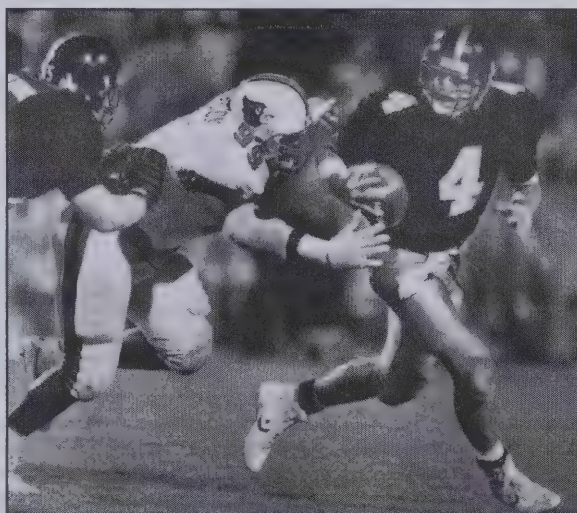
The difference is that Brett sees the whole field in play much like an IBM computer plays chess, when every man counts. "With Brett Favre, it's not so much the arm, it's the way he sees the field and how he improvises," stated one of the losing team defensive coordinators. "He is able to backpedal out of a pocket, get out of trouble, and make a big play," says another.

### **A Betting Game**

When it comes to illegal betting, nothing comes close to a Super Bowl. In 1998, more than \$5 Billion was bet on Super Bowl XXXII while more than \$70 million was placed legally at Las Vegas.

It is estimated that a billion people throughout the world follow the Super Bowl making it the most attention getting sporting event ever. It therefore has a dynamic effect on image enhancement and image making.

At stake was \$48,000 for each winning team-man and the permanent possession of the Vince Lombardi Trophy, a sterling silver created by Tiffany and company. The trophy was named after the late coach Vince Lombardi of the two-time Super Bowl champion Green Bay Packers prior to the 1971 Super Bowl. The trophy is a regulation silver football mounted in a kicking position on a pyramid-like stand of three concave sides. Weighing 6.7 pounds and 20



3/4 inches high, the trophy is engraved with the wording. "Vince Lombardi" and "Super Bowl XXXII" on its base along with the NFL emblem.

Concerning endorsements, Bart Starr stated, "Everybody wants a little extra piece of you after you become a champion. They want a little more of you the next year. So the more you win the more they want of you."

Brett has already garnered a list of endorsements which includes Nike, Sprint, and milk and shaving cream products, all of which are handled by his Hattiesburg attorney, James "Bus" Cook.

### **Wheaties Cover Boy**

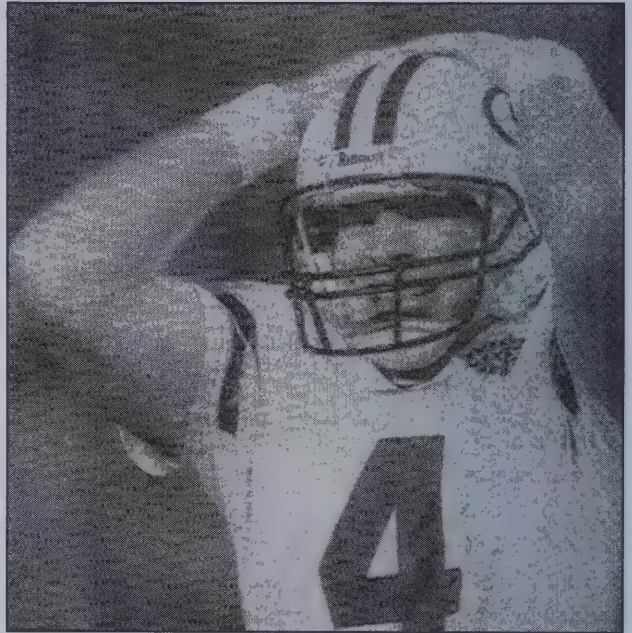
Reminiscing, Brett recalls, "As I grew up, I remember seeing many of my sports heroes in Wheaties commercials and on the package cover. Now, I have my own package, that's great!"

### **Broncos 31, Packers 24**

Brett Favre had 99 seconds and 70 yards to take the Packers to a tying score, but it didn't happen. Denver needed all Davis and Elway could muster because Favre didn't make it easy with three touchdowns and completed 25 of 42 passes for 256 yards.

Brett said of John Elway, "He's waited a long time for this, I know, I know the feeling he's going through. It's a wonderful feeling to win this game."

**"It's over," Favre said.**  
**"Let's get ready for next year!"**



Brett Favre walked away from the Green Bay Packers and the NFL with an unprecedented three Most Valuable Player awards, a Super Bowl ring and just about every passing record the league tracks.

### **NFL Records for Brett Favre**

**Career Passing Attempts – 10,170**

**Career Completions – 6,300**

**Career Touchdown Passes – 508**

**Career Wins as a Starting QB – 185**

**Career Passing Yards – 71,838**

***Extracted from an article written by Rob Demovsky – book "10 to 4", by Coach Mark McHale***

Brett Favre's decision to retire came as a surprise to many but not to Mark McHale, the man who recruited Favre to Southern Mississippi in 1987. McHale knew all along that 2007 was going to be Favre's final NFL season.

After spending hours with Brett, before leaving the Favre house — McHale asked Favre the big question everyone had been wanting to know for years.

He looked at Brett and said, “Hey Brett, how much longer are you going to play? – He looked at me and said, 'Coach, please, please don't tell anyone, but this is going to be my last year.'”

### **AND THE SENTIMENT OF THE FANS:**

Virtually, everything about Brett Favre is both admirable and engaging. We as fans, are truly blessed to witness such a player who is a certifiable superstar, and yet so identifiable as a human being. Regardless of his amazing on-field accomplishments and undeniable talent, we find ourselves connecting with him on a personal level. He's the type of guy, that if you were to meet him, you may not even talk about football. You would probably find yourself telling jokes, chatting about the weather, or any of the other “under the sun” topics. His life story in recent years could draw comparisons to the biblical story of Job, and yet, true to his unwavering character, he has weathered the storms of personal tragedy with unbelievable personal performances, and as always, class, humility, and a down home dignity. We as fans salute Brett Favre, and hope that he can continue to play longer, as we will never see another one like him.

*JOE TOPPE, Greenville, South Carolina. Business writer (2004)*





Hancock North Central High School students lined the fence behind the 12-foot bronze statue of Brett Favre in May 2004. In addition to unveiling of the statue, in ceremonies, the school named its football field after Brett Favre.

In early March, 2008, Favre announced his retirement from

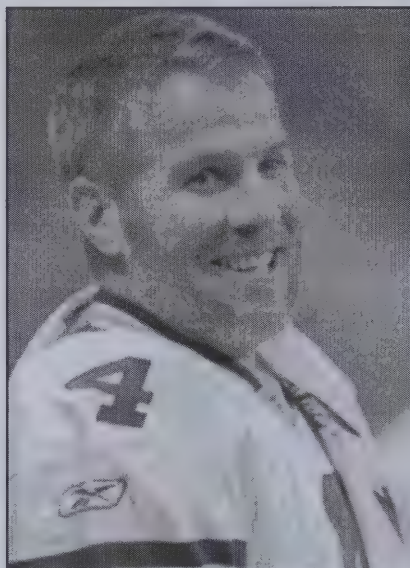
the Green Bay Packers.

At a news conference he said, "I know I can play, but I don't think I want to. It's been a great career for me, but it's over."

"As they say, all good things must come to an end. I look forward to whatever the future may hold for me."

Clarion-Ledger columnist Rick Cleveland has covered the Mississippi sports scene for more than three decades. He ranks Favre's impact on the state near the top of any list. "He's without question the most famous player from the state," said Cleveland. "I've never seen any player's retirement get this much media coverage ever."

Favre has endeared himself to Mississippi and is likely to be held in high esteem for generations to come.



## Remembering “Big Irv”



It didn't take long for word to spread throughout Hancock and Harrison communities neighboring Big Irv's turf near the Kiln. One of the first places to hear of Irvin Favre's auto accident was at the Broke Spoke where Irv Favre was known to saddle up at the end of the bar on a near weekly basis. He would swap stories and on leaving, would twirl his pointed finger in the air and say, "I'm gone."

Just before Christmas 2003, age 58, Big Irv made his final farewell as he had a heart attack that caused him to run his pickup truck off the road.

In most Gulf Coast communities, everyone knew or heard of Coach Favre. The Favre home off Rotten Bayou on Irvin Favre Road is steeped in trophies gained by all family members. Big Irv had coached his sons and many others that matriculated through Hancock North Central school — years before son Brett became a three-time NFL “Most Valued Player” and lead quarterback for the Packer's Super Bowl winning victory in 1998.

Brett told a story of his father's coaching habit of hyping his team with pre-game oratory. If opponents referred to the North Central Hawks as Chickens, for certain, the players were prepped for a kill.

Big Irv coached for 28 years — 24 in the Hancock County School System. He guided St. John High School to its only state championship in baseball in 1970. He became head coach at Hancock North Central in 1972 and turned the school, which was best known for its basketball teams, into a South State contender in football.

Big Irv was hard nosed as there were no excuses for missed practices — and all three of his sons, Scott, Brett, and Jeff, were quarterbacks.

Following a jaunt at retirement, Irvin Favre returned to coaching with the Mississippi Fire Dogs, an indoor minor league football team that went to the 2001 National Indoor Football League championship.

An earlier comment by Brett was to state, "Sure, he was harder on me than he was on other kids, and I probably got mad about it at the time. But they all had to wait until the next day to get more coaching. I got it all the time. We talked football on the way home from practice, we talked football at supper, we talked football before bed. We talked football when we got up in the morning. We talked football all the time."



A somber Brett Favre was surrounded by family and friends on Wednesday as he said goodbye to the man they called "Big Irv." Hundreds gathered on a crisp, sunny day at St. Paul Church in Pass Christian on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Some waited in line for as much as an hour as they assembled for funeral services.

Packers coach Mike Sherman attended the service with backup quarterback Doug Pederson. "They are a very strong family," Sherman said. "Brett has a very strong Packer family as well as in Green Bay who will support him and be there for him."





Favre and other family members, including his wife and mother, followed clergy and pallbearers and the casket out of the church. The casket was draped with yellow roses on a bed of green ferns, the colors of the Packers. The pallbearers all wore yellow roses.

Family and friends stood in line outside St. Paul Catholic Church in Pass Christian on Wednesday morning, some waiting up to 50 minutes to get inside to offer condolences to Favre's wife of 38 years, Bonita, and his children, Brandi, Scott, Jeff and Green Bay Packers quarterback Brett.



Green Bay head coach Mike Sherman, along with Doug Pederson, Brett's backup quarterback, flew into town for the service.

Green Bay center Mike Flanigan, former Green Bay players Mark Chmura and Frank Winters and former Major League Baseball player Barry Lyons also attended.

James "Bus" Cook of Hattiesburg, Favre's agent, said the service, which lasted for an hour and 20 minutes, was emotional at times.

Bishop Thomas Rodi and former Bishop Joseph Howze celebrated the Mass. Cook said Favre's daughter, Brandi, and her cousin, Jan Currie, also spoke during the service.

Brett's phenomenal performance during Monday night's game against the Oakland Raiders served as the eulogy, Cook said.

He said the late Favre was dressed in a sport coat and turtleneck. "Irvin wasn't a coat and-tie guy," said Cook.

A melodic ringing of church bells began as the Favre family exited the church and eight pallbearers placed Favre's silver coffin adorned with yellow roses inside the hearse. Bonita Favre, followed by Brett, was among the first to exit the church. While his mother thanked the bishops, Brett got inside a white limousine.

"(The Favre) family is so strong," Sherman said following the service. "They're there for each other."

Commenting on the Packers' 41-7 victory over Oakland on Monday night, Sherman said, "Brett's strength certainly came from his dad and the strength from our team came from Brett. They felt a need to win that game, not just because of the playoffs, but because Brett needed to win that game for his dad."

Kiln native Kenneth Ray Faye, who said his father owned land near the Favre property, called Favre "the perfect person." He said Favre took care of his players and trained them to do something good with their lives.

## **Heart of Favre will live on**

*as told by Al Jones —*

*Sun Herald News Mar 27, 2005*

Irvin Favre was known to many as a father of three sons and one daughter. To others, he was known as Big Irv, the father of Brett Favre, a soon-to-be NFL Hall of Famer when his career comes to an end.

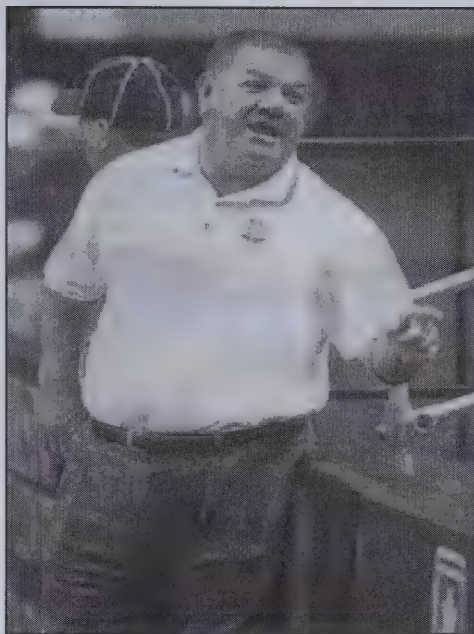
To me, he was a friend, buddy and fishing partner. There were times on a boat that we laughed and cut up more than we fished.

I remember one cold December morning that we bundled up with Willie Santiago and fished the lower end of the Jourdan River. After catching a few fish, we headed across the Bay of St. Louis to grab a hamburger at Discovery Bay Marina. The fog was thick, but we were determined

to get a hot meal even though we had to back track the same route to the boat ramp. The thought of returning didn't hit home until we finished the burgers.

That trip was special. It also turned out to be the final fishing trip we shared. Irvin passed away six days later, just days before Christmas.

At the time of his death, I was hunting antelope in Mexico, and upon hearing the news, my heart became heavy. Facing a 14-hour ride home, I had plenty of time to think about my time with Irv. One of the many conversations we had dealt with was his family and the love he had for them. He loved Jeff, Scott and Brandy as much as Brett. There were no so-called stars to him; they were all equal in his eyes.



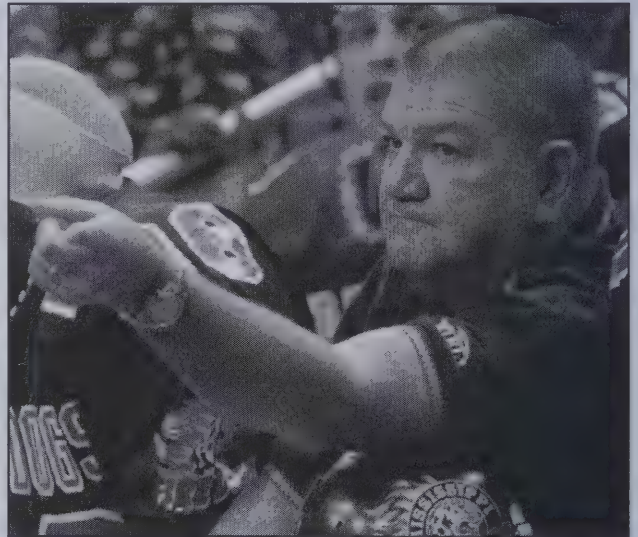


Another conversation dealt with the special-needs students his wife, Bonita Favre, taught at Hancock. It was here that Irv's true colors were revealed. In fact, Irv loved talking



about kids in general and once told me that it was a thrill when he took his kids fishing and wished more parents would do the same. A kid hooked on a fishing pole, Irv said, was one kid less likely to get hooked on something negative.

Irv even went out of his way during his final days to get an autographed football from Brett for a young man fighting for his life near Mobile. The young man would die the same day Irv did.



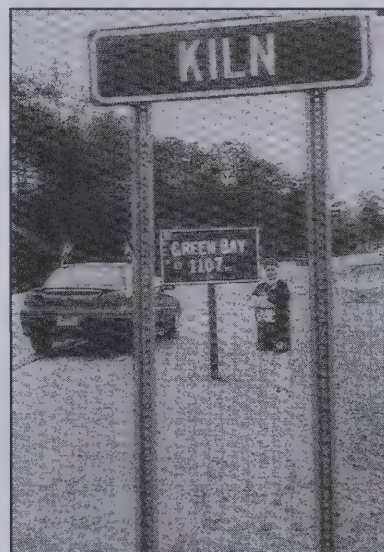
## **The Kiln – After Super Bowl — XXXII**

*Notes from the "Sea Coast Echo"*

In 1997, when Super Bowl was over in New Orleans, it still took several days for things to get back to normal at the Kiln. To the delight of business owners in the small community, Kiln became an unbelievably popular stop for Green Bay Packer fans.

Featured on television and radio stations around the country and in newspapers too numerous to count, the Broke Spoke Bar became the hub of media activity for a two week period. It was so popular that the bar opened at 9:30 a.m. beginning six days before Super Bowl Day and didn't end its wrap-around days until 5:30 a.m. the following Monday, as the last stragglers finally parted. By the following Wednesday, the crowds were only then thinning out.

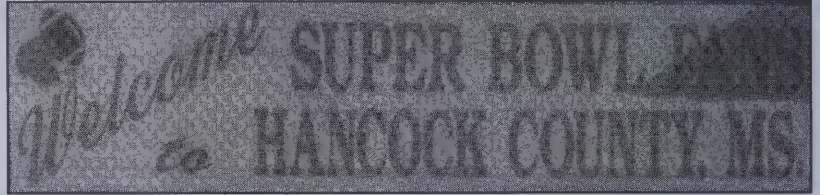
The Broke Spoke was the destination of thousands of visitors, many of whom traveled down from Wisconsin after seeing the bar on





television. Stevie Haas, the now famous owner, treated 5,000 people to a Cajun crawfish boil the Friday night before game day and another 1500 attended on Super Bowl Sunday. Haas said he boiled 24 sacks of crawfish and went through 500 cases of beer during the all-night bash.

Dolly's Quick Stop sold a lot of food and souvenirs. We kept our kitchen open 24 hours and put out a 1 a.m.



breakfast on Friday and Saturday before the big game," said Dolly Lee.

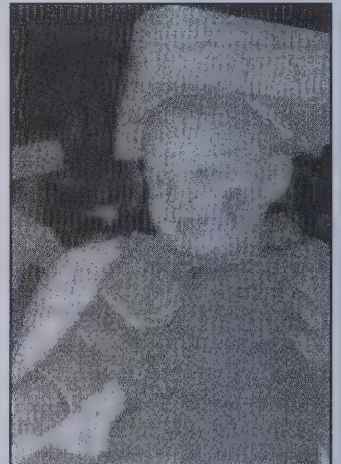
Peggy Ladner of Kiln Supermarket said she sold out of everything and was still taking orders for t-shirts."

Rooster's Restaurant also was packed according to Daphne Blakeney. "It was unbelievable! All the visitors stated how wonderful we are and how southern hospitality really exists, and lots of people said they are going to stay here next year for their winter vacation."

The Kiln was like wine, many of the fans visited the shops everyday of their stay.

In addition, other communities joined in the fray. The Kiln wasn't the only place selling Packer fan fodder. In Waveland, Home Plate Collectibles was selling Wisconsin-style "cheeseheads" and in Bay St. Louis, the Photo Center was selling out of Favre cheese dolls.

Just after New Year, 1997 celebrations, Sea Coast Echo Publisher, Ellis Cuevas wrote that, "The star quarterback for the Green Bay Packers, Hancock County native, a Hancock North Central and University of Southern Mississippi star, has the community buzzing for his achievements."

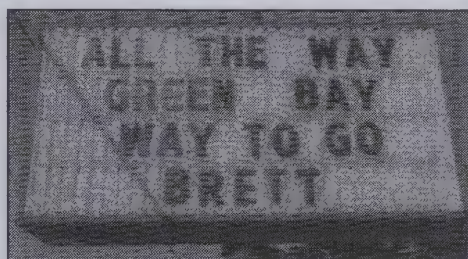




Richard Meek went on to state that, "The annual media feeding frenzy that defines Super Bowl week is in full swing. If there is any doubt, take a ride up Highway 603, where reporters from coast to coast have turned the *Broke Spoke Lounge* into "Planet Kiln." At times the interview queries border on the edge of sanity. Few of the questions actually pertain to the game because Super Bowl Week is the annual rite of the media being exploited by the NFL. No matter the outcome, Super Bowl Week will be an enjoyable and lasting memory for the wonderful residents of Kiln. It has been a fun two weeks, and a much-needed shot of favorable publicity.

"Fan and Media activity in Kiln forced the Hancock County Sheriffs Office to beef up patrols in the area. In addition to closing part of the roads surrounding the area, the Board of Supervisors declared

"Brett Favre Day" at the Kiln. Sheriff Ronnie Peterson ordered two extra patrol units to add security to the area. Larger crowds were expected especially as the Super Bowl game-day drew nearer. "We might have to send three to four additional units," Peterson said. "We'll do whatever it takes." "It seems like everybody is having a good time enjoying the publicity." The town was being flooded with national media, as well as Packer fans wanting to visit where Favre played his high school football."



"Kiln, Mississippi is one of the most popular communities in the nation this week. Television cameramen, newspaper and magazine reporters have all been visiting the area where Brett attended school and grew up.

"Perhaps the most sought after interview subject was Stevie Haas of the Broke Spoke Bar located in the heart of Kiln. Haas gave so many interviews that his friends and customers nicknamed him "World Famous Stevie." The bar owner has been interviewed by national television shows, out of state radio shows, news shows from several states and numerous newspapers, including the Boston Globe and the New York Times.

Haas' wife, Mabel, said that someone from out of town wanted to talk to a local about selling something. *"They asked for Kiln City Hall and when they found out there wasn't one they contacted the water company who in turn put them in touch with the Broke Spoke. That's when I told Stevie he's the mayor of Kiln now,"* she joked. "It got to the point that every telephone call had to do with Green Bay or Favre," Haas remarked.

"In preparation for the Sunday game, Haas cooked up large pots of red beans, jambalaya and boiled crawfish. He said, "By half-time, Green Bay will be so far ahead, we'll all go out rabbit hunting!"

"Just down the road at the Kiln Supermarket, Stevie's sister Peggy Haas Ladner was also being barraged by the news media. "I think its great. I want everyone to know about Kiln," she praised. "The neighbors are happy that the reporters are pronouncing the name (*the Kill*) right."

"Green Bay fans had made it to the Kiln even before the Super Bowl media attention. *"The fans just want to see the Kiln and many of them fussed at me for not having hats or t-shirts.*" However, one of the available items were Kiln postcards. "I reminded the fans who were going next door to the Post Office to be sure to request a Kiln postmark, otherwise it got stamped, Gulfport."

"Dolly's Quick Stop, on Highway 603 near the Broke Spoke also got a lot of attention with fans taking pictures of themselves in front of the Kiln sign to let their folks back home know where they had been.

"All kinds of items, mostly green and gold, have been selling like hot cakes in the area. Merchants such as Peggy Ladner of Kiln Supermarket sold out of her special "Southern Packer Backer, Kiln, Mississippi" t-shirts.



Stevie and Mabel Haas  
Broke Spoke owners



She was spotted on British TV and also a radio station in Columbus, Ohio.

"Singing-duo, Dodie Fountain of Waveland and Karen Harvill of Pass Christian, known as the *Mississippi Mamas*, wrote and recorded a cassette tape titled Favre Fever."

"Even the Hancock North Central Elementary and Hancock High School got their share of media and fan attention. Hancock High Principal Joseph Kopf said of the fanfare, "You kind of get caught up in it. You think, Hey, wait, am I famous?"

"At Hancock North Central, Principal Deborah Moran said the big request was to see the football field. *"We are proud of Brett, and he is only one of the products we have to boast about."*

The media attention was used as a learning occasion to encourage the students. *"We tell the kids that if you have a goal and are willing to work, you too can do anything,"* she commented."

Peter Finney, with *The Times Picayune* reported in January 1998, that Stevie Haas commented that, "the traffic from Wisconsin has been absolutely amazing. During the off-season, Packers fans vacationing in New Orleans or on the Gulf Coast drop in. They go out of their way just to see the town where Brett grew up."

Even though the game was in San Diego, there were quite a number of Wisconsin license plates parked near the Broke Spoke to view Super Bowl XXXII via television.

In 1997, Sheriff Ronnie Peterson estimated 5000 people attended a block party at the Broke Spoke, far more than he was prepared for.



*Crowd cheering a Packer's touchdown in the bleachers at the Broke Spoke.*



## **Kiln has a history of Winning Athletes**

“The Kiln has a tradition for athletic prowess,” says Coach J. Larry Ladner. “The folks in the Kiln are a proud people that goes way back to our heritage as a lumbering industry. Regardless of difficulties, the town folk have always shown their strength and stamina.”

Coach Ladner’s great-grandfather Sam Favre operated the first lumber mill at the Jourdan River. The Sam Favre home is the oldest home in the Kiln and is located today just to the rear of Annunciation Church.

Coach Ladner proclaimed the significance in the strong character manifested in those who excel in sports due to their disciplines and rigid training programs.

Continuing his remarks, “The Kiln Lumberjacks was one of the most outstanding baseball teams in the South. They even played exhibition games against the Mobile Bears and the Baton Rouge Red Sticks.”

Following graduation from St. Stanislaus College in 1925, Norton Haas (also a credit to the Kiln Lumber industry) served as Kiln High School's first football coach and organized a successful independent baseball team known as the Kiln Lumberjacks.

He also was among the first professional basketball referees on the Gulf Coast, and assisted in organizing the Mississippi Gulf Coast Baseball League. **James Norton Haas, Sr.** was named to the St. Stanislaus Hall of Fame in 1977.

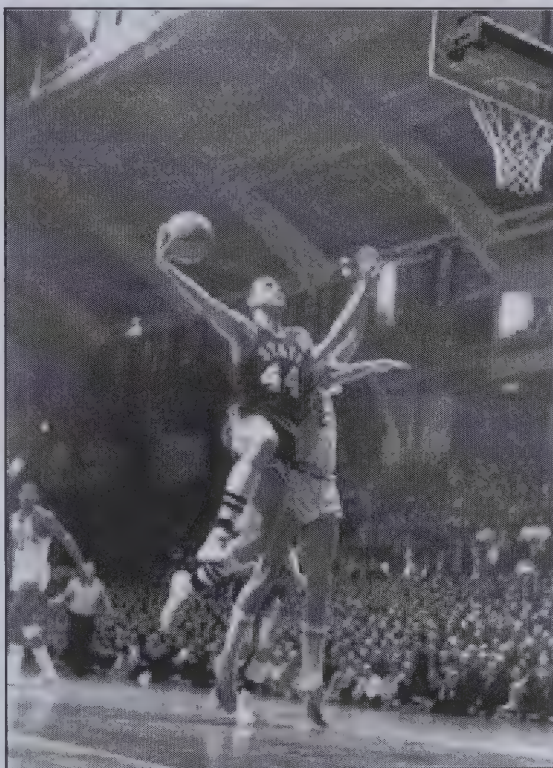
## **Leland Mitchell**

Leland Noyal Mitchell was born on Feb. 22, 1941, in Kiln, Miss., one of 10 children of a carpenter. He lied about his age to get a job at a shrimp stand as an eighth grader, and was painting radio towers by his senior year of high school. He made the all-state basketball team and was one of an outstanding group of freshman players admitted to Mississippi State in 1959.

A 6'4" guard, Mitchell played basketball at Mississippi State University during the early 1960s. He was an All-Southeastern Conference honoree in 1963, a season in which Mississippi State lost to eventual champion Loyola University Chicago in the regional semifinals of the NCAA Tournament.

MSU's appearance in the tournament was controversial because an unwritten Mississippi law prevented racial integration on the basketball court. Mitchell later said, "We wanted to play. We had just won the SEC championship for the third year in a row and we hadn't been allowed to play in the NCAA Tournament the previous two years. For us, the biggest thing was getting the opportunity to play in the tournament because it was something we felt we deserved."

The game between Mississippi State and Loyola on March 15, 1963, took place at the height of the civil rights struggle. It was necessary for



the team to make their trip to Chicago in secret.

In the game, all-white Mississippi State took on the Loyola team with four black starters. The Mississippi team was named the Maroons, an old Southern term for runaway slaves, (which eventually was changed to Bulldogs.) In the first five minutes the Maroons took a 7-0 lead, and could have had 11 points had they not missed four free throws. Loyola ultimately won, 61-51, and the play was gentlemanly.

Mitchell had 14 points and 11 rebounds before fouling out with over six minutes left. The Chicago Tribune attributed Loyola's victory to his absence, calling him "a great performer and the only Southerner who could rebound" against Loyola.

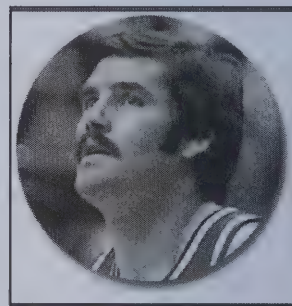
Mitchell was later selected by the St. Louis Hawks in the second round of the 1963 NBA Draft. He never played for the Hawks, but spent the 1967-68 season in the American Basketball Association as a member of the New Orleans Buccaneers. In 78 games, he averaged 4.1 points and 2.3 rebounds.

## **Wendell Ladner –**

In 1966, Wendell Ladner lead the Hawk basketball team to win State Class 'A' Championship.

In 1970, Wendell, 6'5", 220-pounds, was the first graduate to play professional basketball after signing with the "Memphis Pros."

Wendell Ladner (October 6, 1948 – June 24, 1975) was an American professional basketball player. — measuring 6'5" and weighing in at 220 lb, his position was forward, he was one of the great "enforcers" of the American Basketball Association.



Ladner was born in Necaie Crossing, Hancock County, Mississippi



playing high school ball at Hancock North Central High School in Kiln, Mississippi. He played college basketball at The University of Southern Mississippi.

As a Professional Basketball Player, he played for the Memphis Pros, the Carolina Cougars, the Kentucky Colonels and the New York Nets of the American Basketball Association between 1970 and 1975. He played five seasons, during which he was named to the 1971 ABA All-Rookie team.

Ladner died at the age of 26 in the June 24, 1975 crash of Eastern Air Lines Flight 66, in New York City. He was identified by medical examiners because he was wearing his ABA Championship ring.

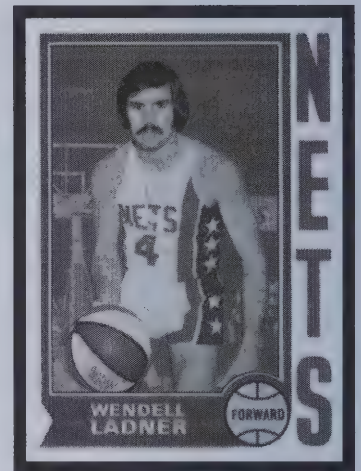
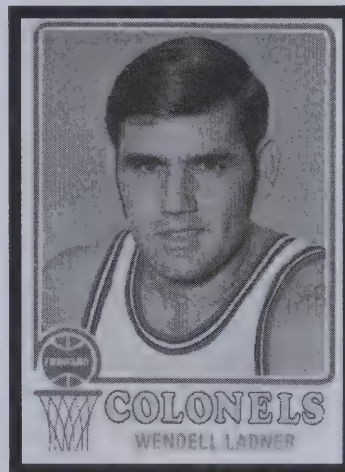
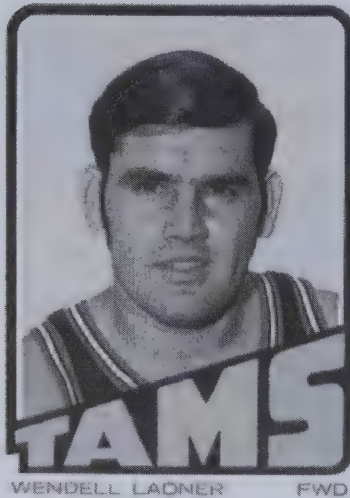
In 1976, following Wendell Ladner's unforeseen death, Hancock North Central school instituted the *Wendell Ladner Memorial Bowl* in recognition of the young man's athletic prowess.



Eastern Air Lines Flight 66, a Boeing 727-225 registered as N8845E, departed from New Orleans Moisant Field, bound for John F. Kennedy International Airport on the afternoon of June 24, 1975. The aircraft carried 124 people, including 116 passengers and 8 crew.

As the aircraft was on its final approach into New York Kennedy at 4:05 p.m. EST, the crew entered into a microburst or wind shear environment caused by a severe thunderstorm. The aircraft continued its descent until it began striking the

approach lights. After the initial impact the aircraft banked to the left and continued to strike the approach lights until it burst into flames and scattered the wreckage along Rockaway Boulevard, which runs around the perimeter of the airport. Of the 124 people on board, 106 passengers and 6 crew members died. Ten passengers and 2 flight attendants, who were seated in the rear of the aircraft, survived.



## **Mary Louise Necaise Moran**

A Commemoration by the State of Mississippi rendered at the session of  
2014

by Senator Philip Moran.

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 602 – Commemorates the Mississippi State Single Game-scoring Record of 91 Points for Six-girl Basketball set by **Mary Louise Necaise Moran of Kiln, Mississippi**, on February 17, 1951.

Mary Moran, whose maiden name is Necaise, was a six-foot sophomore at Kiln High School during her scoring avalanche. She had started for Kiln since entering the seventh grade. "I was just hitting everything I threw up," Moran said. "I kept scoring. The crowd was acting ugly about the situation. Coach Percy Garriga told me to keep pouring them through";



Moran graduated in 1953 as Kiln's Valedictorian, accomplished her scoring feat as a 16-year-old in the old Bay High School gymnasium. "In the seventh grade, I started on the high school team. We had three tall forwards. The night I scored the 91 points, the other two tall forwards were out of school." Kiln led 26-20 at halftime, then scored 76 points in the second half. In those days, girls played only six-minute quarters and played three-on-three on each end of the floor. "I was having a ball," she said. "In those days you could stand under the goal. It wasn't like today." Mary prefers six-girl basketball format to today's five-girl scheme; and Mary is a mother of five and grandmother of four. Her brother, John Necaise, played on Hancock North Central's Class B-BB State Championship and Overall State Championship Team as did her four first cousins: Doug (Spider) Necaise, Barney Necaise, the late Wayne Dooley Necaise, and Donald Necaise.

Reported in the February 19, 1951 edition of the *Daily Herald*:

"The Kiln girls were hot in the last half of their game scoring 76 points to swamp the St. Joseph's School Lassies. M.L. Necaise racked up a 91-point total for the night's work. The carnage started after the normal first and second quarters which found Kiln on top 22-18 in the first quarter and ahead 26-20 as the second stanza ended"



## Clayton "Big-Boy" Peterson

*– Pugilist from the Kiln*

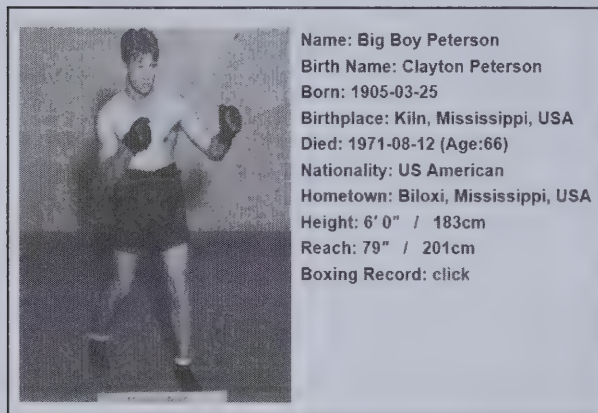
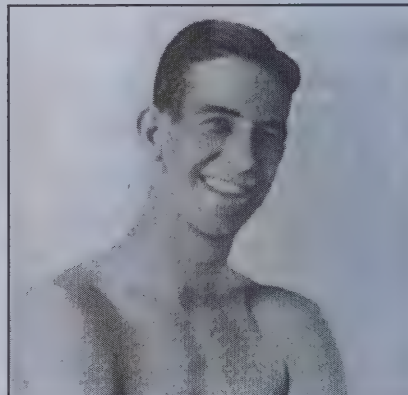
Known in the ring as "Big Boy Peterson," he had a Swedish father and an Irish mother.

As a Heavyweight, he stood 6 feet with a reach of 79 inches.

Through Nov 15, 1925, reportedly he had 23 bouts – winning 20 with 11 K.O.'s; drawing 2, and losing one.

He continued an active boxing career for a number of years even being challenged by Primo Carnera, a new arrival to the U. S. On December 13, 1932 in Grand Rapids, Michigan, Primo Carnera defeated BigBoy with a TKO decision.

In all, he had 91 bouts during his career.



In addition to BigBoy was his brother LittleBoy. And there were the Cameron and Lott brothers and Buster Malini and his brother.

## **The 40's Kiln Boxing Team**

Kneeling left-to-right: Coach Jim Peterson (brother of Big-Boy) J.W. Olsen, Dan Haas, Roy Cuevas, Wesley Haas, J.T. Ladner.  
Standing: Marvin Carpenter, Wilbur Haas, Austin Haas, Gene Favre, Norman Glass, Robert Ladner. *(Photo courtesy of Lynnell Curet)*



In reviewing his copy of this book, Stevie was quick to point out his dad, Wesley Haas, second from right bottom – ready to do battle.

## **J. Larry Ladner**

– tagged Mississippi's "Ambassador of Basketball"

J. Larry Ladner graduated from Kiln High School in 1955 after a distinguished playing career where he was selected All-State in 1954-55 and



was the first player from Hancock County to be named to the North/South All-Star game.

He played collegiately at Pearl River Community College and Louisiana College.

Following his playing days, Larry returned to South Mississippi as head coach at Picayune Memorial High School where he tallied a record of 263 wins and 82 losses.

Larry left high school coaching to take a teaching position with the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg. While at USM, Larry was named Distinguished Professor of the Year in 1984 and was honored for Excellence in Teaching in 1974, 1976, 1979, 1984 and 1987.

He was named the Outstanding Educator of America in 1974 and became a noted national and international speaker. Larry is a published author of several articles both nationally and internationally.

He was the first USA basketball coach to speak and host a clinic in Venezuela and served on the United States Olympic Committee in 1976.

Larry was inducted into the Mississippi Association of Coaches Hall of Fame in 1994 and the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame in 1997, and also to the Pearl River College Sports Hall of Fame.



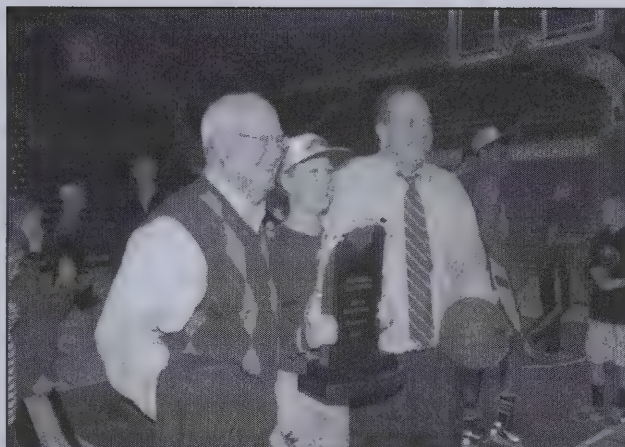
Coach Ladner in the mid-1960s with Kelly Wise and the Picayune Basketball team.



In photo at right, J. Larry Ladner had watched his son, Jay, lead JCJC to the unbelievable finish as the head coach of the Bobcats.

It is a legacy of championships that span three generations.

Coach Ladner's keys to success are desire, determination, hustle, and pride.



Luke Ladner holds the NJCAA national championship trophy flanked by his father, Jay Ladner, and grandfather, J. Larry Ladner.

## Jeff Larsen

In 1970, **Jeff Larsen** was the first student from the Kiln to sign a four-year football contract with the University of Southern Mississippi. Unfortunately he was not able to play out the season due to a career altering injury.



Basketball team photo — courtesy of Gaynell Blaize  
Year and team members not revealed.

# 1930 Kiln Basketball Team

Left to right front row:  
Cameron, Earl Moran,  
Anthony, Wallace Harrell,  
S.P. Powell;  
Second Row, George, Patrick  
Mauffray, Lester Necaise,  
Leroy Ory, Albert Ladner and  
Clarence Wictom.



**Kiln Consolidated HS 1946-47**  
(photo courtesy Lynne Curet) - Lft to Rt:  
James Curet, Roy Cuevas, Harris Ladner,  
Marvin Carpenter, Robert Ladner, J.W. Olsen,  
Liston Necaise, Carl Garriga,  
and Wesley Haas (father of Stevie Hass)



Standing Left to right: Robert Lee, J.W. Olsen,  
Wesley Haas (*Stevie's dad*), Robert Ladner,  
Liston Necaise, Leroy Cuevas, Norman Lizana,  
Mr. Sheppard.

Middle left to right: James Rester,  
Harry Ladner, Larry Prince, Jimmy Curet,  
Roy Ladner, Tommy Lee.

Bottom left to right: Earl Dwayne Lee, Alvin B.  
Lee, G. J. Lee, Webb Welborn, Albert Spiers,  
James Garriga, Alton Favre.



## **Heritage Museum?**

## **Hall of Fame?**

The idea was conceived at the groundbreaking ceremonies in 2000 that the Kiln would be an ideal place for a Heritage Museum or even a Sports Hall of Fame.

Hancock County Tourism Development Bureau Executive Director Beth Carriere supported the prospect for a Heritage Museum.

Historical Society president, Charles Gray stated that a Highway 603 location was ideally centralized in the heart of the lumber industry and moonshine industry.

Mike Necaise, former Chancery Court Clerk supports the idea of a Sports Hall of Fame to commemorate former athletes such as basketball state champion Larry Ladner, basketball standout Douglas "Spider" Necaise, probasketballer Wendell Ladner, light welterweight champion Gussey Cuevas and boxing champion Big Boy Peterson. And that's without saying how Brett Favre's image would be of an asset.

## **Mike Necaise —**

All Gulf Coast Conference (3 years)

All State Team 1967 - Prep All-American Team

Drafted by Seattle Supersonics (NBA) - 1971 (6th Round)

Drafted by New Jersey Nets (ABA) - 1971 (6th Round)



## **Entertainment spots of Notoriety**

The Kiln is small in area and sparse in population, but is not shy from notoriety – sometimes regionally; sometimes nationally; and on occasion globally. The Kiln has no governing body in itself; no mayor and no property owners association to rule or administer. Some call the Kiln a settlement, others refer to it as a village or a town. The Kiln only obeys the laws of the County and State governments and its citizens simply follow the rules of friendship and standard etiquette.

There are a handful of churches and there is no Chamber of Commerce. They are proud of their youth and proud of their schools.

There have been in the past and are available today, places for social entertainment — but only three standout historically as being notable.

The Cow Shed, the Broke Spoke, and Roosters. The first existed in the early to mid-1900s – the last two, from the late 1900s. Only the Broke Spoke remains.

## The Cow-Shed



Actually the “Glass Place”, aka the “Cow-Shed,” was located on the vacant lot at the NE corner of Hwy 603 and Kiln/DeLisle Cross Road intersection.

In 1935, Izella Cameron Glass and William Glass built a dance hall and salloon on that location. The roof-top K-I-L-N advertised the village.

How did the name Cow-Shed come about? — Nick (Jr. Goat) Necaise, Hubert Bilbo, and Ray Favre are often acknowledged as the first ones to name it the Cow Shed. Another reason for its name was that at that time, there wasn't any stock law and livestock wandered freely. At times these animals stood in the shade of the Glass Place and buffered themselves from wintry winds, rather than going to their home pasture across the Highway that belonged to the Glasses.

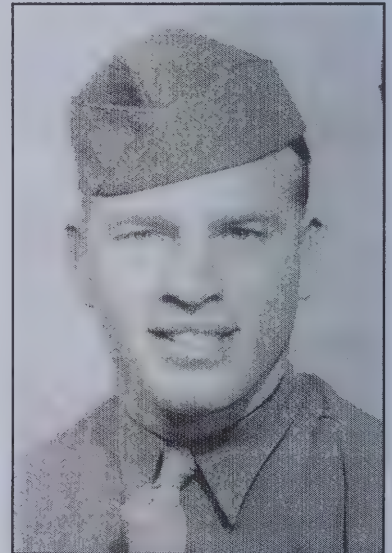
## The Cow-Shed

During an interview with J.E. Favre in 1997, he related that he and his brothers had organized their own band.

"We played at all the old hang-out roadway saloons in the County. We had a 5-piece band with drums, guitars, sax, and piano. My brother, Ray, gave the name to the old "*Cow Shed*" where we sometimes played. It use to be down the road on Highway 603 where the cows came in for their evening feeding." . . . but, Ray pronounced "cow shed" a little differently."

On further joyful reflection, Billie Faye Lyons recalled;

"I use to dance all night long at the "*Cow Shed*" – that's when Country wasn't *Cool* like it is today!" It was on the road from Melva's, then, the only other place in the Kiln. The "Cow Shed" belonged to Izella Glass who originally called the place Glasses' Bar before the locals renamed it. There was a big dance floor behind the saloon and every weekend the folks from all around went there with the whole family – including grandparents and kids. The place was built in 1936, and local live bands played the weekends. It was my favorite hangout – my only hangout where I could dance, dance, dance. At that time, there were no black top roads – only dirt roads."



Norman Glass, Izella's son, took over management after WWII,  
(Photo by Placide Don Nicaise)



It was Hurricane Camille that destroyed the “*Cow Shed*” in 1969. Also ending poker games that were played there during its last few years.



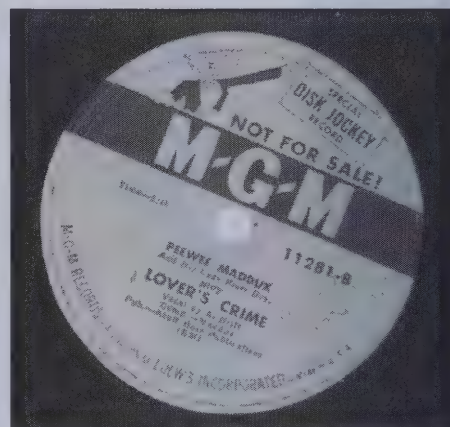
The Dixie Revellers – at left are Arney Smith and his brother  
and on the far right is PeeWee Maddux

The Dixie Revellers and the Lazy River Boys were famous local bands that played at the various road side taverns that existed in south Mississippi’s coastal region where “White Lightning” was plentiful.  
*(These photos are courtesy of Lynnel Curet.)*



A recording by his group featured the song, "Lover's Crime"

He also appeared in the chorus of the recording of "What a Party" by Fats Domino.





## **An Evening at the Cow Shed**

*by Placide "Don" Nicaise*

Don Nicaise has produced several wonderful heritage novels of early French personalities of the Gulf Coast. The first was *Children of the Lily* followed by *Requiem for the Lily*, and *Legacy of the Lily* – to complete his “Lily Series” of local coastal history

The building had once been white, but when I knew it, the clapboard sides, metal roof and stunted shrubbery were enclosed in a shroud of beige dust. A Jax beer sign hung over the drop-shed porch, and a neon sign in the window blinked out the message, "Drink Dixie Beer."

The metal roof was painted with giant letters that spelled "K-I-L-N." This barroom and dance hall — known as the Cow Shed, once served as the favorite Saturday night gathering place and a source of entertainment for generations of people from the surrounding countryside.

Over the years, the gravel parking lot had become a layer of dust, cigarette butts, bottle tops, and shards of well-worn glass. On Saturday nights the lot was always full of cars and pickup trucks oddly angled-in, some with their back ends sticking out into the crossroads. Drunks stood among the cars in the semi-darkness, drinking, laughing, talking, and hassling each other.



Izella Glass, owner and operator  
of the Cow Shed, or “Glass Place”  
as it was actually named.

*Photo courtesy of Lynn Nell Glass Curet*



The sound of country music floated outside as the drunks huddled together, drinking moonshine whiskey out of jugs they had ingeniously stashed away under the hoods of cars, or the chassis of pickup trucks. They pretended to be there to pickup women, but the women were inside with the lounge lizards. The drunks seldom ventured inside. They stood outside in the darkness, part of a bachelor herd, waiting for their opportunity to make off with a woman. Many of them had not been with a woman in years. They wouldn't have known what to say to a woman and wouldn't have known what to do if a woman had propositioned them. They had come for the action, to drink, to argue, to watch whatever fights developed, but mostly just to spend time with their buddies. It had been a Saturday ritual since they were teenagers.

The groups were segregated by age. High school boys were there talking loud and acting silly. Young men in their twenties with slicked down hair and roving eyes were telling jokes and bragging about their exploits. Men whose hair was beginning to thin and whose necks were browned from the sun were talking about farming, making moonshine whiskey, or about politics. Others with sagging faces and balding heads leaned up against cars and talked about the past. Drunks with rotting teeth and sunken eyes made the rounds, trying to bum drinks or smokes from men who were following in their footsteps.

On one memorable night, the action began as the front door opened and three young women came out on the porch. Orange light spilled from the doorway, shining out on surrounding cars and lighting up faces in the darkness that were suddenly turned in the direction of the young women. The blare of music and the nasal voice of Ernest Tubbs momentarily serenaded the crowd in the parking lot. A tangled crowd of drinkers and dancers were barely visible inside as they milled around in a dense cloud of cigarette smoke. The blare of music faded back to the original background noise as the girls closed the door and made their way off the porch, swinging their hips as they wove their way between parked cars. Men, young and old, stopped their conversations, watching expectantly.

You could almost read their thoughts — maybe this was the opportunity they had waited so patiently for all these years. Maybe someone was finally coming out that would find them irresistible.

As the girls continued walking indifferently across the lot, the guys finally realized it wasn't going to happen, and in their disappointment, issued some catcalls.

"Soo Cows!"

"Y'all don't know what you're mis'n."

*The above is the first page of a short narrative written by Placide Nicaise, and is included herein with his permission. The entire novelette may be secured from the Kiln Library, where several of his other books can be found.*

Song writer musician Jack Brown wrote the song, "The Cow Shed."



*"Meet me tonite at  
the Cow Shed,*

*"After the cows  
come home;*

*"Although its only  
a cow shed,*

*"Its just like  
Home Sweet  
Home.*

The Cow Shed was situated on the NE corner of the Crossroads of Hwy. 603 and the Kiln/Delisle Road – this is a vacant lot.

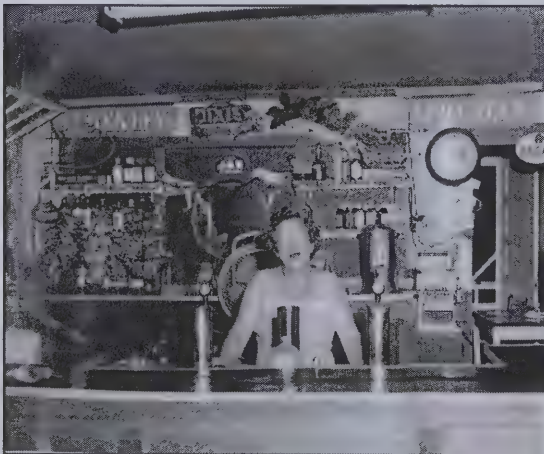
## Melva's Place

Melva's Bar and Restaurant was once located where Keith's (former D&K) is today – across the road from the Cow Shed location. It was first named after Sam Haas Sr.

Built on the Main street of Kiln, it originally faced the Kiln-DeLisle Road as in this photo.

Later when the old Poplarville Road was improved, it became Hwy. 603. After Sam's death, Melva turned the building to face the more busy thoroughfare in 1984. On the side of the building

was a painted sign that read, "*Ghost Town Crossing,*" reflecting on the 1930 Depression and the closing of the lumber industry. (The statement can be seen in the cover photo and in the one above.)



*Melva Haas*



*Two (no names) girls in front of Melva's Place – the Cow Shed is in background.*



## **Plane landing at the Kiln**

*by Placide "Don" Nicaise*

Veterinarian Dr. Stewart of Picayune got tired of driving on the country roads and bought himself an airplane. One day Dad told me, "Don, go outside and listen for Stewart's plane. He is going to fly over and help us inoculate Crump's herd for Anthrax."

"Where's he going to land? There's not an airport in miles of here."

"He's coming in on the Poplarville Highway (Highway 603). When you hear the plane we have to rush over there and stop the traffic."

"He can't do that!" I replied.

"Why the hell not?"

"Well, for one thing it's against the law."

"There's no law over there," he replied calmly.

"Maybe not, but it's still dangerous. He could hit a car or a power line," I said.

"There're no power lines over there, and we can stop all the traffic before he lands."

"How're we ever going to get over there to stop the traffic in time?"

"Just be ready to drive like hell when you hear the plane."

Before I could bring up any more objections, our voices were lost in the roar as Stewart zoomed in over the house at almost tree top level, made one quick circle and headed out for his landing side. Dad was already in the car before I got cranked up. I scratched off, heading out on the washboard, gravel road that would take us to the Kiln. I was driving about eighty miles an hour with Dad complaining that I needed to go faster so he could keep in sight of the plane.

As we slid to a stop at the crossroads at Kiln, Dad jumped out of the car and started stopping traffic. I continued north to stop the southbound traffic, keeping an eye on the plane that was coming in directly toward me. Three

or four power lines crossed the road right where he was landing. A truck was coming and the only way I had to get it to stop was to pull into the left lane, forcing it off the road. The driver didn't see me right away and I thought we were going to have a head-on collision. Finally, he ran off on the shoulder of the road and went bouncing and sliding to a stop. Stewart's plane came in right between two of the power lines and directly over my car with such a roar that he seemed to be only a few feet away. I looked in the rear view mirror to see him touchdown and go sailing down the highway toward the intersection.

I turned around and drove nervously back to see if anybody had been hurt. The truck driver had gotten out and was standing beside the road in shock. As I drove up, he began cursing and shaking a fist in my direction, so I kept going. When I got back to the crossroads, Stewart's plane was in the roadside parking lot at Melva's Place. People were coming in from all directions to see what happened, but Dad and Stewart were nowhere to be seen. When I got inside Melva's, I found them sitting at the bar, surrounded by a crowd of people, laughing and having a drink.



*Sam Haas and Melva*

## **Roosters**

*Now part of a large vacant section*

The North East corner lot was where the Cow Shed had reined during its glory days.

That empty lot merged with the parking lot of the former Rooster's Restaurant which prior to Hurricane Katrina, offered a delightful array of food befitting the tastes of any fine dining connoisseur of gourmet cooking. Saturday evening entertainment provided an enchanting throaty chanteuse who brushed the strands of her guitar creating rhythmic tones that blended with her soulful tunes. In the back dining room area the menu was spruced up by the friendly upbeat piano selections and songs from one of the local entertainers.



Rooster's was a Fine-Dining restaurant with a different ambiance for each of its three dining rooms. Andy and Lee Lott, along with their daughter Daphne Lott, opened the Kiln's successful fine dining eatery in 1981, offering lunch and suppers from a varied menu with week-end entertainment. However, after roof damages from Hurricane Katrina, the building was razed and Daphne has now opened the up-beat dining eatery named for what she called her dad, "Pop's" for Pop Andy Lott.

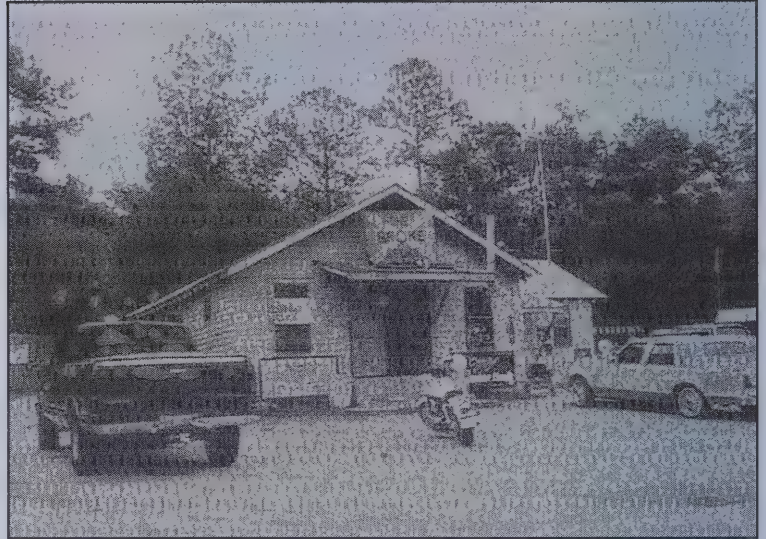
Before Roosters opened for the Kiln folks and surrounding areas, the building was a large automotive garage – and before that, it was a gasoline station.

Only the cement footprint remains.



## The Broke Spoke

Taking the Kiln road West toward Picayune is a well-known turn for many of the young locals who hang out at The Broke Spoke. Climbing three worn, wooden steps and entering the darkness lit only by the daylight rays from the front entrance and a few beer



signs, one would then take a few strides between two pool tables to a shabby wooden bar bordered by five or six unmatched and unadorned stools of uneven heights. Upon seating and ordering a beer, the mass of assorted signs, posters, memorabilia, become distinguishable to the eye one by one. The floor is plywood and the low ceiling is cluttered with an imposing array of women's assorted underclothing. At one side of the entrance is an old wood stove which until recently was the only source of heat during winter months. Posted at one wall is a Dart Board. Even with the one air-condition unit protruding from a wall, the front door is left open for fresh air.

The country store was originally the *Haas Grocery* which was built by Orlando Haas in the 1930's. The grocery catered mostly to the neighboring Negro community selling ham hocks and mustard greens, but all the towns folk went there to buy smoked sausage, salt meats, and *Cajun cooked Boudin*.

"The Broke Spoke" has been open for business since June of 1985, with Stevie Haas and wife Mable as owning managers. The building was an old grocery store for many years prior to its conversion to becoming the Kiln's foremost day and night spot — much like a modern sports bar found in large cities.

### **Broke Spoke – 1999**

Mable and Stevie Haas's Broke Spoke was heavily damaged by fire as a result of faulty electrical wiring. The 60-year-old building became a national landmark in 1997, when the Kiln's home-boy, Green Bay quarter-back, Brett Favre, led the Packers to Super Bowl XXXI. The local bar drew hundreds of Wisconsin fans to watch the New England Patriots' defeat.

The bar made national news once more when the fire broke out on April 21, 1999. Originally opened in 1985, as the Broke Spoke, even the fire didn't prevent local patrons as they later continued to gather at an outside bar to watch while others participated in the rebuilding process.

However, much of the Packer memorabilia that had been donated by fans from all over the United States, in addition to hundreds of personally autographed ladies lingerie had been fried to a crisp.

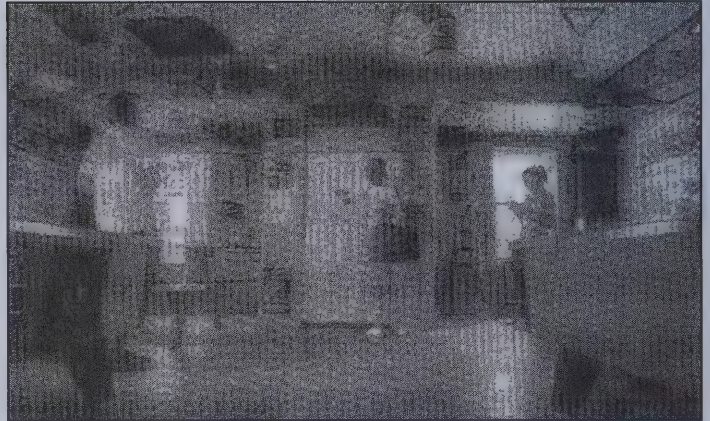
Following two months of mostly volunteer repairs, the Haases had a grand re-opening ceremony and ribbon-cutting, and exclaimed, "Our friends stood by us and now we're back, and we're happy again."



Shown here is Stevie and Mable Haas  
with Brett Favre.



Wisconsin visitors were welcomed to the renewed Broke Spoke just after the fire, as they posted some new Packer's memorabilia. Also, the former imposing array of women's assorted underclothing have been refreshed since the fire.



Prior to the Fire was an old wood stove which was the only source of heat during winter months. Posted at one wall was a Dart Board. Even with the one air-condition unit protruding from a wall, the front door would be left open for fresh air.



Since the fire, the Broke Spoke has continued to break records in having the Kiln burst at the seams – particularly football seasons.

Ending the November 2000 Kiln Day dedications and celebrations at the new Hancock Plaza offices and the quartering of the Hancock Bank Kiln branch, all spectators were treated to free gumbo prepared by Stevie and Mable Hass at the Broke Spoke.



## Article by Wright Thompson for ESPN

*Photos by Joe York for EsPN.com*

Permission granted by Wright Thompson

KILN, Miss. (Jan. 2008)

There is a bar in Brett Favre's hometown called The Broke Spoke. Before we go any further, here are a few things you need to know about the place. There are bras and panties hanging from the ceiling. Some of the panties are, well, large. There is a rebel flag with a white-tailed deer on it.



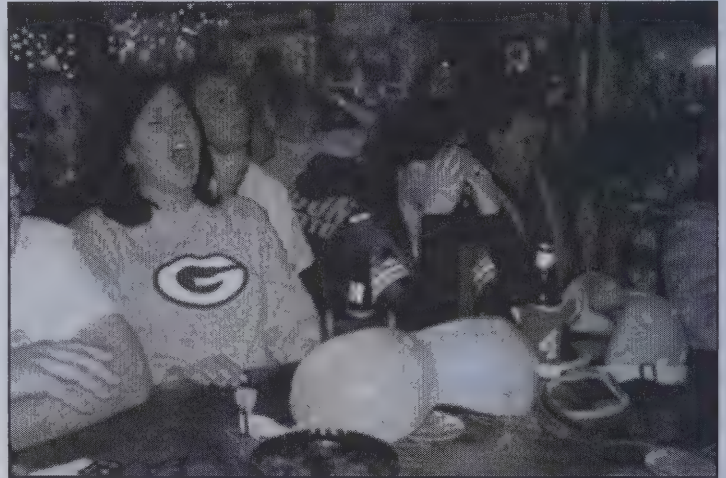
Many older folks have watched as the little places like Kiln, Miss. have disappeared, dried up or been annexed. People have moved away or forgotten what made their hometown special. But not Kiln. Every Sunday, the folks in this town have seen why they are special. Brett Favre's success has been their success. As anyone from the Kiln can tell you — "You don't know what he brought to this community." "Look around. You'll see tonight."

The decor inside the Broke Spoke is a bit ... eclectic. Owner Steve Haas blends in by sporting a Packers sweatshirt. In the parking lot before lunch Sunday, Deanna, Favre's distant cousin, calls me over to his Dodge pickup. He reaches inside and pulls out a plastic milk jug of the famous Kiln moonshine. White Lightning. He grins. "It'll run this diesel," he says.

It's game day in "The Kill." They're icing down about 180 cases of beer, opening 22 pounds of chicken gizzards, chopping up the sausage and

the onions, getting the roux into the pot for the gumbo. There is a gallon of that homemade liquor in the office. "They'll need it later," Stevie Haas says. "Every Sunday at halftime we pass out shots of moonshine, and we call a friend in Wisconsin and do a shot salute over the phone."

People begin to arrive early, bundling against the below-freezing weather. Nothing can keep them away. They haven't had a day like this in The Kill in a long time. Many figured their favorite son would never again see a Super Bowl, so Sunday has the feel of a high school reunion –



people looking for something they thought they'd lost forever. "Everybody is anticipating that feeling," lifelong resident Ginger Ladner says.

Someone remarks, "Yes, those are 'cheese bras' on the table." Below the bar are beer coolers and on a table is a big silver pot of steaming gumbo and cars are stacking up in the parking lot.

Outside the Spoke, bar patrons warm themselves by fires ... and a little libation. Some of the cars have Mississippi tags. But just as many are from Wisconsin. Of all the things Favre has done in his career, perhaps nothing is as unexpected as the relationship





that has formed between a little hamlet in South Mississippi and Green Bay Packers fans. It started in 1997, when Wisconsinites streamed south toward New Orleans for Favre's first Super Bowl. Back then, The Spoke was the kind of place where a stranger might get his butt kicked. "This was a trashy biker bar," a regular, Rodney Lacoste says. "The bullet holes in the sign are real. That Super Bowl made us famous."

A love affair began that weekend. It has grown over the years, with folks from Kiln heading north for games and folks from Wisconsin heading south. When Hurricane Katrina hit, the storm's eye passing just a few miles from the bar, Packers fans loaded up and came to help their friends. Something ties



them together. Maybe it's the working man ethos, or the love of camouflage, or that they all like a cold Budweiser after a long day. "The Kiln people and the Green Bay people click," Ginger says.

But Favre can't play forever, and a once-unthinkable question hovers over Sunday's party: Is this the last time? Dave Ancinec wasn't taking any chances. On Tuesday, after years of promising he'd go watch a game in Kiln, he loaded the RV in Racine, Wis. On Thursday, he arrived. Stevie and his wife, Mabel, told him to just park next to the bar. Now, they've got him chopping onions. It's the first time he has helped make gumbo. In just three days, they've made him feel like family. "I called back home," he says, "and everybody's jealous as hell."



Dave Ancinec came all the way from Racine, Wis., to experience some true Southern gumbo. The sun sinks lower and lower, night falling on Kiln. People light a fire in the parking lot, then two, then three, then four, then five. The bar fills up, with smoke, with fans, with a guy wearing a duster and a bowler hat, peach cobbler in one hand, a longneck in the other. Soon, several hundred people wait inside for kickoff. Outside, a hundred or so more fans pile in close together on the bleachers in front of the big-screen television.

Stevie stands behind them. He has been thinking about the past 17 years a lot today, about all the friends they've made. "For the last 17 years," he says, "we've had all of this."

Deep down, he believes this is bigger than Brett Favre. That these relationships will last long after Favre

has taken his last snap. It would just be too much to bear if today was the day it all ended. "I think it's a long time to follow," he says.

The nerves are palpable when the game begins. The same people who cheered Favre down the road at the high school now crowd around televisions. The uniform has changed. The cheers have not. "Go, Brett, go!" they yell. The last orange traces of the sun disappear behind the pine trees. The lead goes back and forth. As halftime approaches, the Dixie Cups come out and in comes the moonshine. Hundreds of shots sit ready.

Stevie walks to the bar and calls for quiet. He holds up the phone. For the first time, the room gets still. Every game, they do a shot with someone from Wisconsin on the line. They've got numbers stapled to the



kitchen wall of people they've called in the past. Tonight, they've got a special treat: Brett's brother, who is watching the game at Lambeau.

At halftime, folks at the bar down a shot with Jeff Favre, who is 1,100 miles north at Lambeau Field. "We got Jeff Favre on the phone," Stevie shouts. "We're gonna do a shot with Jeff Favre."

Hundreds of people raise their cups. Presumably, a thousand miles away, connected by a lifetime of memories and a telephone line, Jeff Favre does, too. They count down: "Three ... two ... one." Everyone swallows the White Lightning and screams. The liquor burns going down, like it has here for generations.

The phone keeps ringing. More people call from Lambeau wanting to do a shot. The last guy has some of the Kiln moonshine with him. It's warm in the Kiln kitchen. It's minus-4 degrees at Lambeau.

"The moonshine ain't froze, is it?" Stevie laughs, and his Wisconsin friend laughs, and they do a shot together. If the night could have ended there, it would have been perfect. Two friends, from completely different parts of the country, joined together for a moment because of a game. But real life rarely has a happy ending. The Packers can't pull away. Favre can't drive the ball down the field. The Spoke is a bit stunned. Even though many of the people remember Favre as a boy, they now think of him like that bronze statue over at the high school. A myth, not a man. One of the bartenders pleads with the television: "Come on, Brett. Work that magic one more time."

On this night, though, there is no more magic. When the New York Giants end the dream in overtime, after the curses fade into the night, Stevie manages a bitter laugh.

"Life goes on," he says.

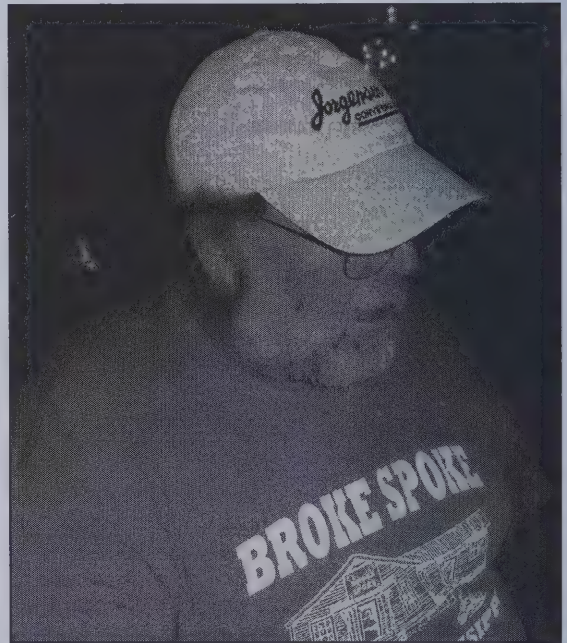
The fires in the parking lot burn low, flames turning to smoldering embers. Diesel engines rumble as the people clear out. In Green Bay, Favre says he's not sure if he'll ever play again. In Kiln, there's an old man named Burl who thinks about the game, and about all the love they've given Favre, and all the joy he has given them in return.

"He's still our hero," he says.

## **Nostalgia is Sweet**

When asked about what he remembers most in the last 15 years, Stevie is quick to remark, Friends – friends here in the Kiln and friends from Wisconsin.

When Hurricane Katrina made head winds into the Kiln area, the Broke Spoke only lost a part of its roofing and a sign that was hurtled across the road to an empty lot. Word got out to the locals that without electricity, the food stuffs in their freezers would spoil. Many brought their steaks and chickens and frozen items to Stevie's house where he had a number of generators set up to keep his large freezer operating and fuel to keep his broilers working. He and Mable cooked everyday for everyone who dropped by even after the electricity was turned back on.



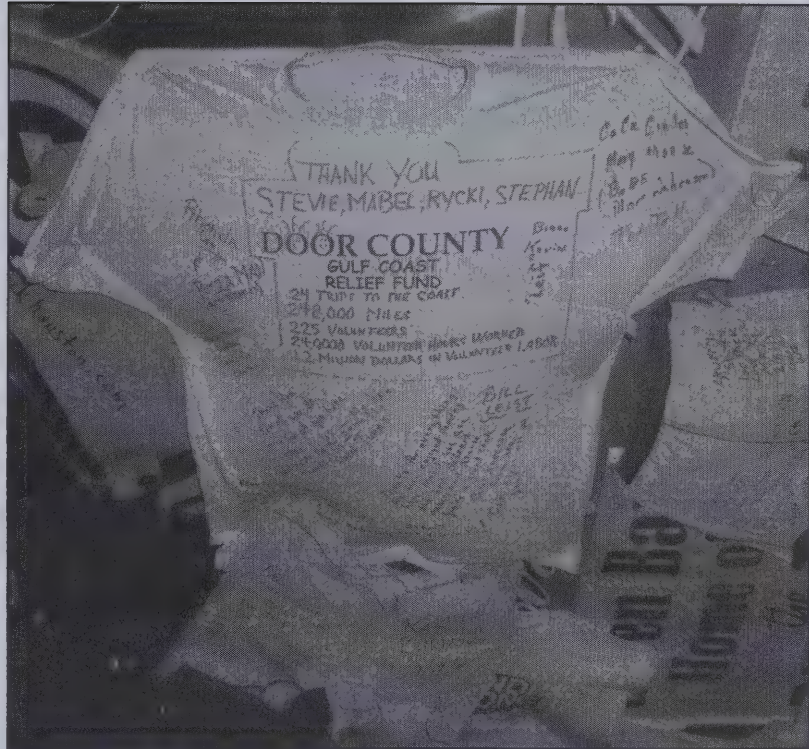
Friends from Wisconsin were quick to respond within the first days. Pete D'Amico and his group rented a large trailer that was placed in the parking lot at their local Sam's where people could drop off their donated items and contributions. Many groups of Wisconsinites made trips to the Gulf Coast to lend a hand to the many people in need after first making a stop off at the Kiln, often at the Broke Spoke where Stevie and Mable had continued cooking their special food offerings to the visitors and locals alike. This continued for five or six weeks until the need subsided.

It became customary for visitors to post or pin their own little trademark signature – t-shirts or undies – whatever made sense to the in the deliverance.



Pete D'Amico posted on the ceiling in a spot cherished by Stevie where he could point out the benevolence of the many friends who came to give their hand and heart during time of disaster.

Folks from Door County alone proclaimed 24 trips amounting to 248,000 miles of journeying.



Astounding – the many thousands who descended upon the needy towns and cities in 2005 and afterwards – giving their funds and human resources to people whom they had never met.

Friendships are made like that.

Many trips to show gratitude to the folks of Wisconsin were made by Stevie and Mable. They carried along with them sacks of crawfish that were boiled at someone's site to reciprocate for the generosity of the folks called Cheeseheads and their fellow man. It was a time for fellowship with a Cajun accent applied. Stevie and Mable also brought along the makings for bowls of Gumbo and dishes of Jambalaya. They put their heart into their efforts.

Stevie doesn't hesitate to proclaim that the notoriety for the Broke Spoke is due to the successes of Brett Farve and his rise to fame,

particularly with the Packers of Wisconsin.

And the personal relations with Brett and Jeff were a contributing factor to opening a Broke Spoke in Muskego, Wis. which was a success from the start. The business was eventually sold to new owners when the stress of work overload became too much for Stevie.

He had a stack of business cards with a rubber band tied around them allowing for a few in the center of the deck to survive the 1999 fire of the Broke Spoke at the Kiln.

In telling the story how the Broke Spoke in the Kiln got started, Stevie and a friend, bikers and working in the plumbing business were curious about the vacant building that was formerly a grocery store built by his grand-uncle Orlando Haas. At the urging of his friend they became partners to open a bar. Although Stevie wasn't even warm to the idea, the rent was good, only \$150 – as pressed by his partner, “Hey, we drink more booze than that a month – we open our own place and get free hooch.”

They each put up \$1500 to get the place in shape. The holes in the floor were patched, the holes in the walls were covered with used t-shirts, the electric lines were re-strung for lighting, and beer was refrigerated in barrels that were iced down ready for business each day.

Air-conditioning was with the door open and heating was with an old coal stove.

Everything appeared to be coming along smoothly until his partner decided he was no longer interested in running a bar. Stevie felt inclined to continue the project so he borrowed the money to pay off his partner and then he was solidly in the bar business.





His biker friends showed up and they drank and had a hoot of a time even drag-racing in front of the bar using the Kiln/Picayune highway as their drag strip. That worked long enough into the evening until the Sheriff deputies would halt the racing. The bikers then retired to the bar for the rest of the night. Each following weekend they would start up their dragging only to halt when the deputies came by with their sirens blasting. As for the riders, they were resilient and having fun was prime in their lives. Most of their exhausts for sure were un baffled.

During that period, Stevie had hired a friend to be bartender. When he realized the barkeep was making more than he was at his job of plumbing – that’s when he and Mable took on the Broke Spoke seriously and made a full time operation of it.

By nature, bikers are not exclusively men. Many women ride their own Harleys and others hitch on with their boyfriends. It didn’t take long for the gals to start



pasting up the size of their personals – tacking and hanging them from the ceiling. The ceiling, even after the 1999 fire, has become an artists nightmare of colors and representations of mixed images.

When Monday night football was played, more TV’s were installed as



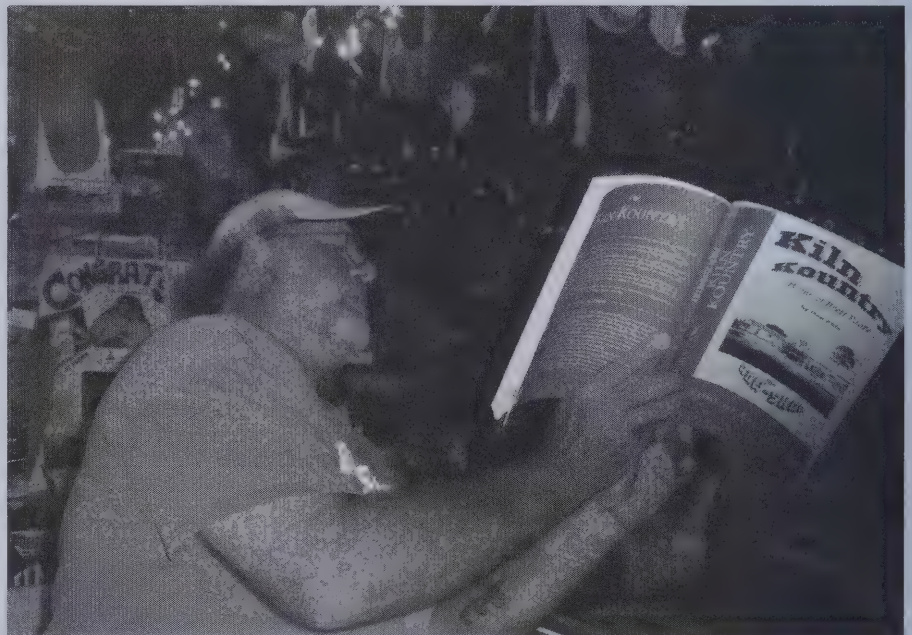
more patrons attended – but there was one problem – some games played later than the Town’s week-night curfew of 10 o’clock. When one of the big games with Brett Favre was the draw, Stevie implored the Sheriff to lift the Curfew to 11 o’clock and at the last moment he complied. Otherwise many of the fans were prepared to be shut-in for the night. The Sheriff figured that would not be a good alternative.

The Broke Spoke folks were and still are extremely busy during the football seasons when they have hundreds of patrons that they provide free food for. Free food in the form of boiled crayfish and Cajun cooking has been a hallmark of their business.

Stevie and Mable made 17 trips to catch the Packers play in their home field, Lambeau. They still make annual trips in their motor home to visit Wisconsin friends.

In photo right, Stevie points out pictures of his father to show brother Dave from an earlier edition of “Kiln Kountry.”

The year of 2015 heralds the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Broke Spoke. As with Stevie and Mable — “There will be a lot of cookin’ goin’ on.”

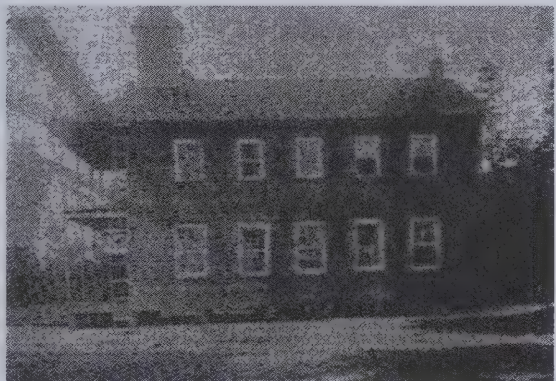


## Early Public Schools

When the Jourdan River settlement officially became known as the Kiln, in 1913, other neighboring communities were: Bayou Cadet, Logtown, Pearlinton, Gainesville, La Croix (Dilleville), M. Cuevas, Fenton, Alcey Nicaise, White Cypress (Standard), Caesar (Center), Vidalia and Rocky Hill.

According to Norton Haas, during the period before the Civil War and afterward, children were taught by itinerant teachers who would live in a neighborhood home and teach for a fee of \$1 per month per child.

About 1895, the Catholic Church, with Father Schmitt as Headmaster, operated the first Catholic School in the Kiln using the old church building as a school room, however this lasted only for a few years. After that, a public school was built and operated in the Bayou Talla area of Kiln where students overfilled the two-story wooden structure.



Bayou Talla School





The Bayou Talla School provided classrooms to the children of the area

Of significance, was that in 1903, the school's principal was the well known two-term Mississippi Governor and three-term U.S. Senator, Theodore G. Bilbo. The Bayou Talla School continued in operation until the Kiln Consolidated School opened in 1917.

A new two-story wooden building was erected known as the Kiln Consolidated School, serving an area of 52-square-miles with one third of the students being trucked in and later bus transport was used.



Theodore Bilbo



W.A. Cuevas served as the School Board president and Adolph Depreo was Secretary.

Principal S.P. Powell was assisted by six teachers who introduced new courses.



*Photo submitted by Gaynell Blaize*



**Kiln Consolidated School** opened in 1917 covering a large area that initially required transportation of students by horse drawn carriages and open trucks – later bussing was introduced.



Photo by Gaynell Blaize – Kiln Consolidated School served an area of 52-square-miles

In "*A Short History of the School*," W.A. Cuevas described that:

"The original Kiln School was a one-teacher school with an average attendance of thirty pupils. The school-house was a rough, frame structure with very limited furnishings. Cuevas recalled that the school also doubled as a courtroom, 'the seats were so rudely constructed as to fall when several men sat upon them.' With the economic success of the area, the school was moved one mile away from its old location and was called "Bayou Talla School," operating with a faculty of three teachers."

"Mr. Haas and Mr. Herlihy were wide-awake business men, and with the assistance of others in the community, contributed in a large measure to the success of the school. But school interest did not begin to develop in rapid proportion until the last few years. Soon after the passage of the Consolidated School Law in 1914, it became evident to many of the wide-awake citizens of Kiln and vicinity that this would be a most excellent location for a good school in keeping with the spirit of the times. Accordingly, in 1916, petitions were circulated at Kiln, Fenton, and elsewhere for a consolidated school district, which was endorsed by over one hundred and twenty-five tax-payers and electors of the district. The petitions were presented to the School Board in due time when they were acted upon favorably, the result being today the magnificent two-story structure building erected on the present location, that one sees on his journey from Bay St. Louis to Pass Christian.

The Kiln Consolidated School was formed of the following-named community schools: Nicaise, McLeod,

Fenton, Silver Hill and Bayou Talla, comprising a district of fifty-two square miles, with a taxing unit of about five hundred thousand dollars."

The enrollment to date has reached three hundred and fifty pupils, one hundred and twenty-five are transported in motor trucks. This means of transportation is rapid, gives results, and is, therefore, cheaper in the long run.

The school at present is under the able management of Professor S.P. Powell, assisted by an able corps of six instructors. The regular course for the student body has been well planned, as will be seen, and in addition to music, a domestic science teacher has been employed for the entire session."

The original Kiln Consolidated School was replaced in 1939 by a concrete block building which included a modern gymnasium.

That school continued until 1959, when the students from the Kiln were transferred to Hancock North Central.

*(Photo courtesy Placide Nicaise)*



*Photo submitted by Gaynell Blaize – Kiln Consolidated  
circa 1925*



*Kiln School - 1949*



The former Kiln Consolidated building was purchased and remodeled to become Annunciation Elementary School which opened in 1960. It later served as the Annunciation Community Center.

**Billie Faye Lyons recalled;**

“In 1954, a modern youth center was built where the present rectory now stands. This was in response to complaints that too many of the local youth spent far too much of their free time in the “Cow Shed.”

“The youth Center had a wooden floor for skating, a boxing ring and shower facilities. One of the local benefactors was Mr. Crump.”

“Ten years later, since it was first built at the site of the present rectory, the steel frame building was dismantled and re-installed on the western side of the former Kiln Consolidated School which was acquired by the Church Parish. But, after its move, Hurricane Camille terminated its use.”

**The Hancock County Schools**

*Hancock North Central School*

In conforming to Mississippi's School Consolidation Law, the Hancock County School System acquired property in January 1958 for the construction of a new school plant to house 750 students and classrooms for grades 1 through 12. Provisions for a gymnasium-auditorium, cafeteria and library in addition to athletic playing fields were completed by April 1959. Students from Leetown, Sellers, Dedeaux, and the Kiln were all gathered for the opening of Hancock North Central on August 28, 1959.

In 1960 the first Hawk basketball team claimed a 43-4 record and won district, regional, and state titles.

The first Homecoming was held on November 11, 1960 with Eva Lee Spiers as Queen and crowned by Donald Wayne Ladner, Captain of the basketball team.

The first Annual Halloween Carnival was instituted in 1963, by the Parent Teacher Association.

In 1966, Wendell Ladner lead the Hawk basketball team to win State Class 'A' Championship. In 1970, Wendell, 6'5", 220-pounds, was the first graduate to play professional basketball after signing with the "Memphis Pros." And in the same year, Jeff Larsen was the first to sign a four-year football contract with the University of Southern Mississippi.

Irvin Favre, became the first Assistant Principal for the school in 1971.

Following the unforeseen death of Wendell Ladner in 1976, Hancock North Central instituted the ***Wendell Ladner Memorial Bowl*** in recognition of the young man's athletic prowess.

In 1977, the Hawkette girls basketball team recorded 34-2 winning games and won titles in District, South-State, and State.

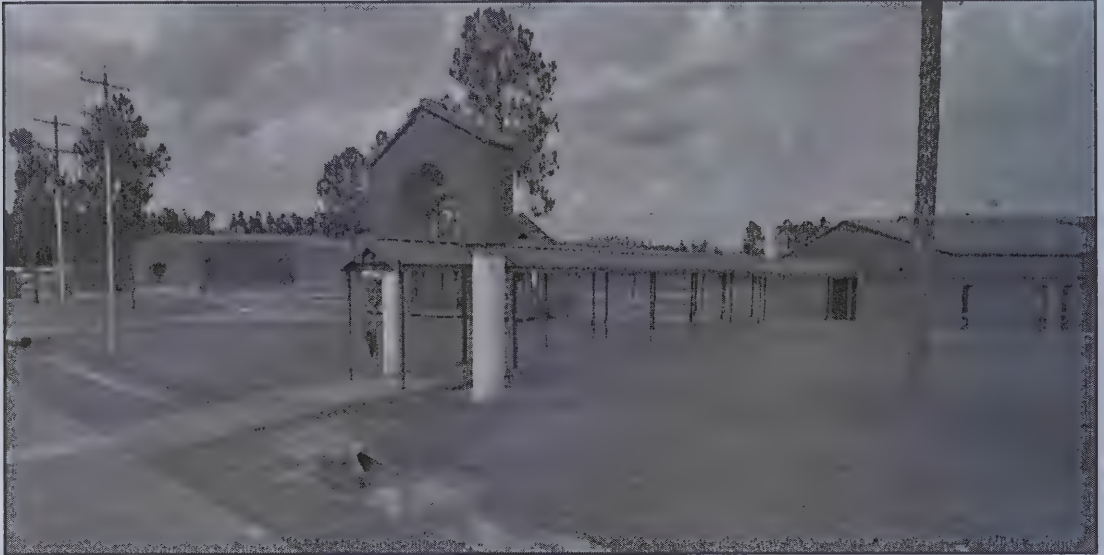
With continuing athletic prominence, the Hawks defeated d'Iberville in an invitational game at the New Orleans Superdome in 1978, as a pre-game performance.

In 1987, Brett Favre graduated and went on to the University of Southern Mississippi after leaving a stirring string of successful football years in leading the Hawks.

Hancock North Central has continued to grow in student-body, campus facilities, and honors and awards.



In 1991, a new state-of-the-art High School facility was built near Stennis Airport to service the County student needs for the greater Kiln area in North Hancock. Current principal is Rhett Ladner.



Classrooms are spread out with ease of access.

### **Performing Arts Center**

#### **Features**

24,620 Square footage  
841 Seating Capacity  
4000 Sq Ft Stage area  
500 Sq Ft Orchestra Pit  
2100 Sq Ft Lobby  
1600 Sq Ft Backstage  
- Dressing Room  
- Make-Up  
1500 Sq Ft Scene Shop



*\$8 Million Dollar Performing Arts Center*



A Groundbreaking ceremony was held on August 1, 2014 on the school grounds extolling the benefits of the Performing Arts Center addition to the Hancock School District. Presentation of Colors was performed by the Hancock Jr. ROTC – followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. The ceremonies took place before hundreds participating as the Pride of Hancock School Band played a fanfare.



*Pride of Hancock School Band*

**Superintendent of Education —  
Alan Dedeaux**

**Board of Education**

Richard Loper, Rose Acker,

Billy Thomas,

Dr. Jennifer Seal, Pattie Stennett



On hand to congratulate Supt. Dedeaux were Senator Philip Moran and Mayor Thomas Shafer IV, Mayor of Diamondhead.



*Hancock North Central Stadium - Track - and Field*

The Field has had natural grass replaced by an artificial turf system that combined the performance properties of natural grass with the benefits of a synthetic solution.

*Aerial of the Hightschool complex using Google Earth*



**Superintendent of Education**  
**Alan Dedeaux**



Hancock High School Principal: Rhett Ladner

**Board of Education**

Richard Loper  
Rose Acker  
Billy Thomas,  
Dr. Jennifer Seal,  
Pattie Stennett



*Alan Dedeaux*  
*Superintendent of Education*



Hancock Middle School Principal: Mr. Dane Aube'



East Hancock Elementary Principal: Tara Ladner



## **Churches and Schools**

### **Annunciation Church**

#### *Early Catholic Records*

Baptismal records of the pioneer Catholics are found in the parochial registers of St. Louis Cathedral at New Orleans and the Church of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Biloxi. The records evidence the fact that early Catholic missionaries from these parishes visited the Jourdan River missions.

By July 1847, Rev. Louis Buteux was charged with Jourdan River, Pearl River, Wolf River, and Pass Christian as missions covered by Bay St. Louis, where he established a parish church. Buteux's successor, Rev. Henri LeDuc, continued to serve the Three Rivers area even after the Civil War. A chapel had been established at Jourdan River in 1860 where Father LeDuc visited every six weeks.

It was indicated at that time, that the population of the Jourdan (Kiln) area approximated 300 Catholic souls who predominated the region.

The Kiln was part of the early Three Rivers mission which included Pearl River, Jourdan River, and Wolf River as the whole area was served by Father Buteux and later, Father Henri LeDuc. All sacramental records for the period 1847 to 1869 are still found in Bay St. Louis at Our Lady of the Gulf Church. *(However, Hurricane Katrina caused the loss of many records – some may be found at the Hancock Historical Office in Bay St. Louis)*

These records reflect that a small church had been built on the banks of the Jourdan River. There was another called St. Joseph on Rotten Bayou and another located on the Kiln/DeLisle Road, midway between Kapalama Road and Fenton Road. A third, St. Joseph Chapel, was built on Fenton Road composed of handmade cinder blocks. This church continued until the 1980s.

In April 1869, Rev. H.A. DeMorangies was appointed resident priest. It was said that the congregation was so poor that it was a while before Father DeMorangies could finally gain a "fine" horse to mount in order to visit mission sites regularly found along "The Rivers." In 1871, an elderly priest, Father Florent, took charge, but with failing health, resigned. In 1872, Rev. T. Meershaert assumed the pastorate of Bay St. Louis, and took responsibility of the Three Rivers missions.

Rev. A. Oberti succeeded Father Meerschaert in October, 1874, and after some time Father Oberti was in turn relieved by Rev. L. Dutto, who, as assistant to Father LeDuc of Bay St. Louis, cooperated with the latter in attending the Three Rivers until Rev. A. J. Van Waesberghe took full control from 1881 to 1890. During Father van Waesberghe's term of office Bayou Cadet, La Croix, Pearlington and Wolftown were listed as missions of Jourdan River, while many small groups of Catholics scattered over an extensive territory depended on the Jourdan River pastorate.

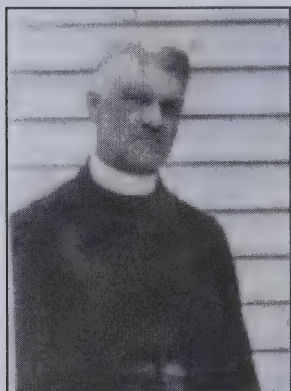
As reported in Our Lady of Gulf church records in Bay St. Louis, on April 30, 1879, the mission church called Annunciation Church was blessed, and there were 42 confirmations consisting of 18 men and 24 ladies including 20 conversions.

That small church later became the first Catholic school house when a new larger church was built in 1886.

On November 14, 1886, Bishop Janssens dedicated the Church of the Annunciation.

In 1890, Rev. H. Mortier was appointed and replaced in 1894, by Rev. Eugene Schmitt, and then followed by Father DeGruyder.

Finally the Kiln was appointed its own administrator with Rev. Joseph H. Chauvin on October 8, 1903. Father Joseph Hormisdas Chauvin, a native of



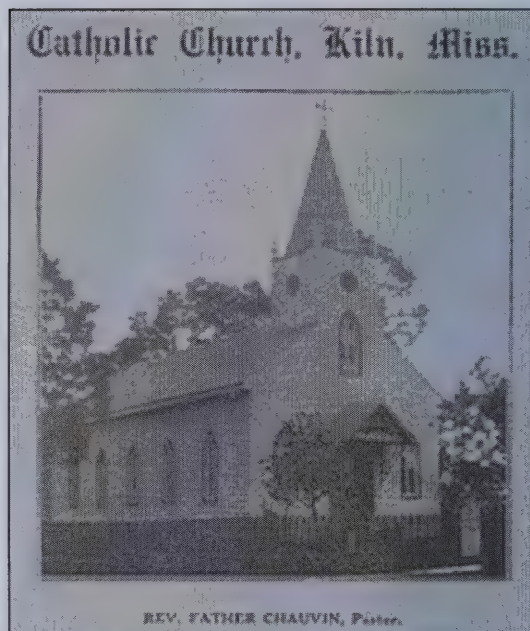
St. Cesaire,

Quebec, Canada, was ordained on March 11, 1900 at St. Hyancinthe. He was assigned to the Diocese of Natchez on April 17, 1900.

In his first annual report, the Catholic population consisted of 480 souls. During his 16 year charge, Father Chauvin also served the Bayou LaCroix, Fenton, M. Cuevas, and Alcey Nicaise settlements. During his ministrations, he would frequently stay the night at the homes of parishioners.

### **A New Catholic School**

Regarding the new school, Rev. Father Chauvin of Annunciation Catholic Church, made the following statement.





"Today marks a new step forward in the advancement and development of the cause of education in this chosen portion of our bounteous Southland. This new edifice, which henceforth is to be dedicated to the great cause of education, and which we hope will last for ages as a monument of the devotion, and the generosity of the people of this place, is a living proof of the faithful co-operation of their good will in carrying out the spirit of intellectual advancement. In the course of long ages this material edifice, like everything that comes from man, may indeed crumble beneath the ravages of time, but we have the fullest assurance that the cause in whose honor they have raised it – like all other things of God will subsist forever. Assured in advance that in facing the material difficulties which yet remain to be overcome, their unflagging support and cordial co-operation will not be lacking in the future, as they have never been wanting in the past, they must indeed thank God that they have enriched this fair little town with a new center of education."

Rev. Alexander C. Denis succeeded Father Chauvin in August, 1919, when he assumed control of Fenton, Bayou LaCroix (Dilleville), and White Cypress (Standard). In his 1925 annual report there were 1778 souls throughout the settlements of Fenton, Bayou LaCroix, Rocky Hill, White Cypress, and Vidalia; of which, 540 were resident at the Kiln. During his term, Father Denis built new churches in those missions attached to the Kiln. In the early 1920s Father A.C. Denis while at Annunciation in Kiln assumed responsibility for the mission in Dedeaux. He was responsible for overseeing the construction of the new church there.

A vacation school was conducted at Kiln during the summer of 1934. In 1935 vacation schools were also held at Rock Hill and Vidalia, in 1936 at Kiln, Fenton and Rocky Hill, and in 1937 at Vidalia.

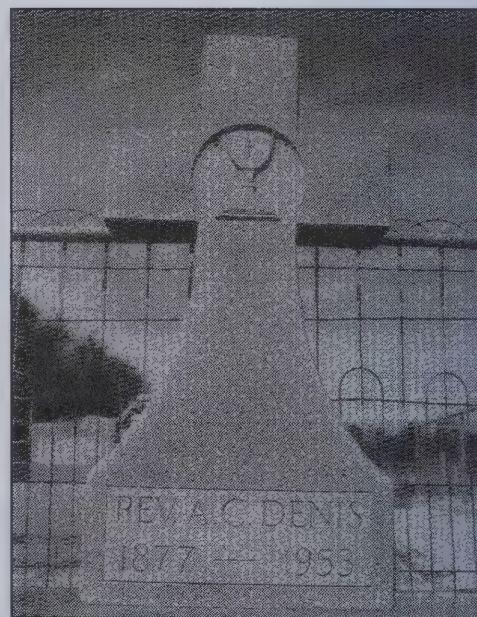
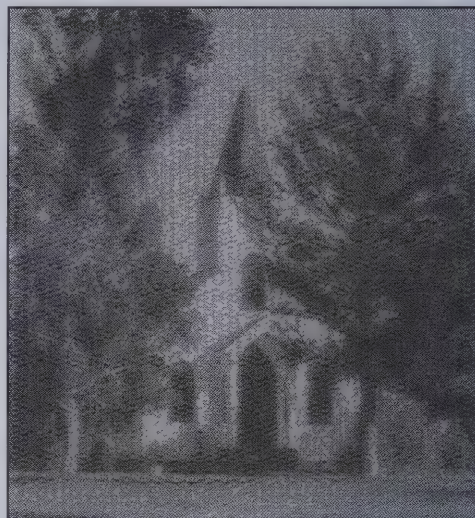
Father Denis built new churches at Rocky Hill, White Cypress, Vidalia and Fenton.

During the Depression, when the Mill generators were removed, the town returned to lanterns and candles for lighting. Father Denis installed a small generator for the Church and rectory to supply basic utility needs.

In 1937, Father Denis reported that the population had remained largely unchanged from its original composition of French and Spanish origins. Due to isolation, the everyday conversation was in the French language even though the majority could also speak English.

Father Denis was a frugal man – it was said that he counted the pasta strands as he cooked spaghetti. Undaunted by the "moonshine" industry, he carried a flask beneath his garments. He saved his surplus personal funds and left a Perpetual Trust Fund that still exists today. The interest was instructed to be applied to insurance policies for the area churches. However, with inflation, the interest falls far short from meeting the current policy rates.

Following a severe illness by Father Denis in 1947, the church became administered by Divine Word Missionaries from St. Augustine Seminary in Bay St. Louis, and later by the



*Father Denis is the clergy namesake for Knights of Columbus Post #7087 at Kiln*

Trinitarians, one of whom was Father Toner.

In the mid-sixties, the current church rectory was built by Father Canisius Hayes which has a charming Mexican architectural design.

In 1963 Annunciation School was established with the help of Sisters from an order associated with the Trinitarians called the Missionary Servants of the Most Holy Trinity. By 1974 Annunciation School had as many as 188 students with a faculty of four Sisters and four lay teachers. The school continued to operate until 1984 when declining enrollment and financial problems brought about its closure.

## **Medical Treatment**

Sister Mary Ellen served the Kiln area and Annunciation Parish for twenty years. As a Catholic nun at the Kiln, she maintained a clinic for the residents in a small shed where the nuns lived. While at the Kiln she served persons of all faiths, regardless of their calling. As a nurse, her clinic was always filled. Not ever did she tire from serving anyone in need. She was truly an Angel of Mercy in helping the poor and every illness. Her hours included any part of a 24-hour-day that she was needed including many midnight calls to a hapless home. The circular roadway across the highway from Annunciation Church was named honoring her mission.

## **Father Henry McInerny**

Aside from some minor renovation in the 1960's, the most significant renovation to Annunciation Church occurred in 1985 when side wings were added to accommodate a growing congregation. That same year the church was also completely redone inside and out.

The first diocesan priest to serve since 1945, was Father Henry McInerny, who was appointed pastor on June 1, 1988.



Father Henry McNerny hailed from County Clare, Ireland. He was an enigmatic cleric who extended his heart and soul to the community he dearly loved.

Upon his arrival he noted that the historic Annunciation Church had been built in 1886, the Catholic elementary school had been closed, and the ornate rectory was less than hospitable. The church buildings needed minor repairs and complete renovations were soon made to the Parish Hall.

Each year, upon his return from vacationing in Ireland, Father Henry, became refreshed in order to continue his several out-reach programs for his parishioners.

When Father Henry realized the general lack of historical documentation in the church and the Kiln Community, he compiled a history booklet and through the years at his post he continued a collection of dated photographs from the Kiln's past.

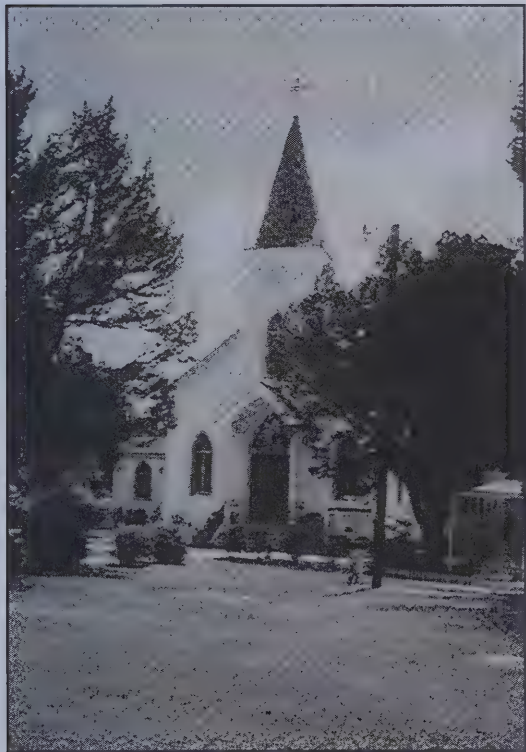
Father arranged an airplane fly-over to take some aerial shots and he even invaded the underbrush to take photographs of hidden treasured relics of the old timber mill site.



Father Henry McNerny



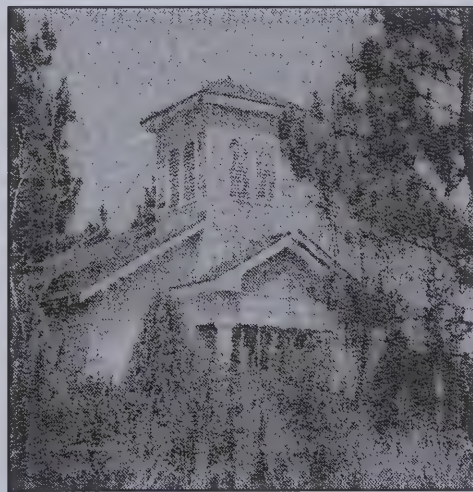
*Photographs by Father Henry McNerny*



Annunciation



The Parish Hall



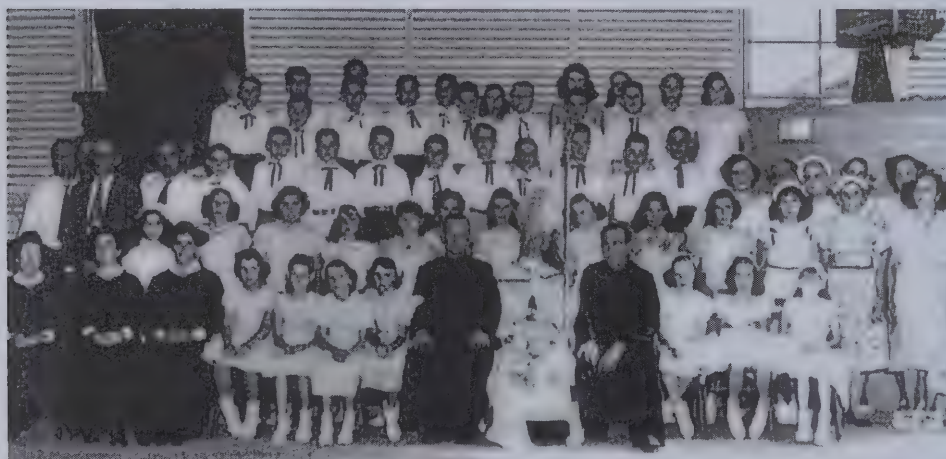
An abandoned church





The First Parish Coucil at Annunciation . Seated from left to right:  
Norton Haas, Marvin Bobinger, George Curet, Sr., Fred Curet, Sr., James Crump.  
Standing left to right: First and Second priests are unnamed, Father Charles Tague, Sister Agnes  
John, Sister Mary Ellen, Sister Donotta Marie, and Mr. and Mrs Bosworth at far right.

## **A Confirmation commemoration at Annunciation Church**





With the 125th Anniversary of Annunciation in 1994, Father Henry promoted a festival celebration which aroused the community's excited interest in both, its Catholic and community heritages.



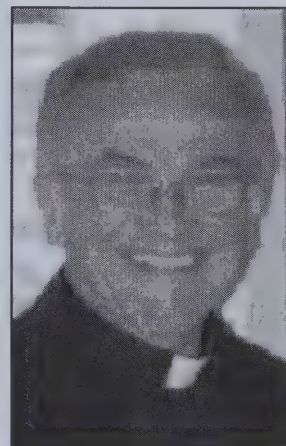
*The Memorial is placed upon a brickwork*

## **Father John Noone**

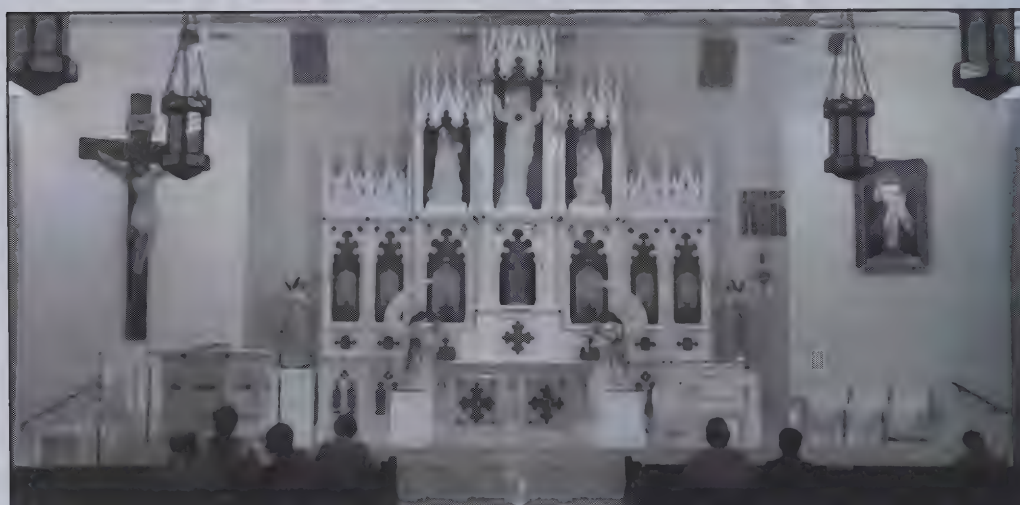
Born in County Roscommon, Ireland

Father Noone studied at St. Patrick's Seminary, Carlow, Ireland. He was ordained to the priesthood on June 10, 1967. He was assistant at Our Lady of the Gulf Church, Bay St. Louis, from September 1, 1967 until March 17, 1970, when he was appointed Associate Director of Catholic Charities, Diocese of Natchez-Jackson.

He received the degree of Master of Social Work in 1971 from Tulane University, New Orleans. From 1972-1977, he was Director of Catholic Social Services Gulfport. He was Director of Catholic Social Services and Family Life Ministry for the Diocese of Biloxi from 1977-1982. After a spiritual year at the Religious Studies Department of Gonzaga University, Spokane, Washington, he was appointed pastor of Holy Trinity Church, Columbia, St. Paul's, Tylerton and St. Mary's Sylvest.



He was appointed pastor of St. Charles Borromeo in Picayune, MS in 1990. On February 1, 2002, after 12 years of pastoring to St. Charles Borromeo, Father Noone was assigned to Annunciation Church in nearby Kiln, Mississippi.



Under his pastorate, serving 341 families in the area, he had the new church above constructed on the Kiln/Delisle Highway.

Hurricane Katrina took its toll on Annunciation, but, because of its relatively high location, the church's primary damage came from the wind. Because of its location, many families in the community took refuge there during the storm. Hancock County and FEMA continued to use part of Annunciation parish hall and classrooms even following Hurricane Katrina for various disaster related offices.



*Truly a magnificence of Spiritual beauty*

The old church is now used as a Chapel and for various weekday sessions.

Father John Noone was considered a very compassionate and spiritual person by his parishioners.





This 1990s aerial photo taken by Father McInerny shows the area where the Main Church is located at upper left and the Old Church, "the Chapel" is situated at bottom right



*Now a beautiful Chapel with its memorial seated out front in the moss covered Live Oaks.*

*The former church will soon become 150 years.*



## **Father Richard LaCorte, SFO**

In May 2014, Father LaCorte, a priest of the Diocese of Fargo North Dakota, while ministering in the Diocese of Biloxi, celebrated 28 years in the priesthood.

A native of Boston, Mass he was an educator. “I taught off and on for eight years at a Catholic school in St. Croix, Virgin Islands.”

In 1972, he took a departure from teaching to join the Dominicans, during the last two years he was assigned to the Dominican House in Washington D.C.

He realized that the priesthood was not best suited for him so he returned to Boston where he endeavored upon various avocations in addition to teaching.

He returned to St. Croix to teach and remained there until 1983, before joining his parents in Florida where he taught in a Catholic elementary school.

He then opted to return to the priesthood and was ordained in May 1987. After serving in several Parishes in Fargo, ND, in 1993 he was given permission to move to Florida near his parents where he ministered in the Diocese of Palm Beach.



In 1996, he joined the Franciscans of the Holy Land where he remained for four years.

Once again he returned to Florida near his parents and from there, in 2008, returned to Fargo, retiring in 2012.

Since then he has served in various Parishes mostly as a temporary priest while enjoying the sunny south and seeking a permanent position.

He considers that teaching is his profession and the priesthood is his vocation. Much of his teaching years has been in philosophy.

## **The Baptist Church**

The first Baptist church in the Kiln was the Lion Branch located on the Texas Flat Road on what is known now as the old Elizabeth Seal place. It was organized just after the War between the States, with Will Holden as one of the deacons, and W.W. Selph, grandfather of Judge A. Frank Selph, as clerk.

The old Knights of Labor Hall was located about six hundred feet east of the present Shifalo Memorial Baptist.

When the public school vacated the building from the Big Branch location, services were held there. It was from this building that the spiritual groundwork was laid for the present Baptist church.

Among those who preached were former Governor Bilbo (later becoming a U.S. Senator) and Brother Hardy Smith (the preacher who walked across the country with his shoes slung across his shoulder, while preaching along the way).

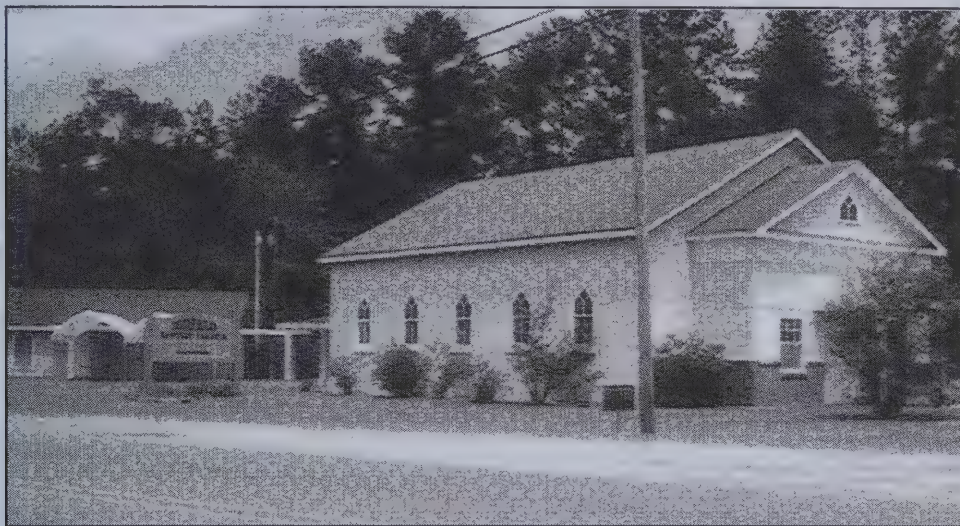
Near the old Shifalo home, the Tabernacle Baptist church was built by Dr. W.W. Moody, Mose Williams, and James L. Morgan. The old Tabernacle Church was abolished in 1914, with the purchase of the burned Carré Sawmill by the Edward Hines Lumber Co.

Under Gibb Varnado's leadership, the Baptist Church was moved to the Kiln.

More Discovery needs to be made to place the First Baptist Church's history with the other Baptist presence.



Also, the date should be determined for the transfer of the church to the present Christian body of Negroes that perform their services in the same building.



Shifalo Baptist Church - Hwy 603

### **Shifalo Baptist Church was constructed in 1959**

Pastor, Rev. Stan Proctor

The church building was dismantled and the church body now holds services on Hwy 43 with impressive educational complex adjoining the church. Now called: **Bayou Talla Fellowship**

Bayou Talla is a New Testament, full-Gospel, non-denominational church.



**Faith Tabernacle Church**, located on Hwy 43 near the Hwy 603 junction is a New Testament, full-Gospel, non-denominational church.



## **The Black Baptist Church**

*Black Institutional Heritage*

In 1897, the Black Baptist Church held services in a small building near the Pulpwood Yard on Jourdan River. Because of the increased membership, the building became too small. This resulted in a new church, under the leadership of Rev. J.E. Mosley, that was built west of Highway 603.

In 1924, the church was rebuilt by Rev. J.W. Monday and became a monument to the spiritual leadership of W.D. Robinson, Louis Galloway, John Lee and Leonard Frederick, Sr.





*First Baptist Church, Kiln*

*Hancock Historical Society reports 53 members in 1936*

Now, the membership is a Negro church – which is located approximately 300 yards from Hwy 603 on the Kiln/Picayune Road.



Baptist Church on Kiln/Picayune Rd.



## **Methodist Church**

Also, in 1924, the Kiln Black community had a Methodist Church, which over the years included the Holiness Temple known also as Lee Temple.

## **The Black School System**

The Black School had its beginning in a small one-room building near the present Baptist Church. Miss Maude Sylvest of Bay St. Louis, was the first school teacher. The school was moved southeast of Highway 603 to the two-story school building previously used by white students. The first principal was Rev. E.J. Chapman of Woodville, later succeeded by Rev. E.L. Fox and R. Jones.

In 1929, a new school was built by Leonard Frederick, Sr.

E.J. Chapman became principal, followed by Dan Frederick, Sr. who served for many years.

Andrew Jackson Lott II provided the land and materials for the "Colored School." He personally supervised the construction of the building in spite of resentment he received from some of the local folk.

Grandson, Andrew Jackson Lott IV, deceased owner of the former Roosters Restaurant, remained faithful to the building's heritage.



*The Cornerstone*

In 1955, the State Reorganization Program encouraged consolidation of buildings as well as transportation. This resulted in the Kiln Elementary School consolidating with the Valena C. Jones Elementary School at Bay St. Louis.

One of the Hancock County teachers, Etienne W. Mason authored a book entitled, *"The Progress of the Races,"* which listed a great number of Negro mariner captains and the vessels they operated.

Etienne William Mason also served as Pearlington's Postmaster from January 1899 to May 1916. He left that post to go to Washington D.C. in a position with the Department of Agriculture. He was also a recognized writer. One of his often repeated quotations was:

"I implore all colored people to have faith in God, cultivate a friendly spirit with everyone, and become educated in order to acquire wealth. Then you will be in a position to demand all the civil rights which (you) are deprived."



The above photo is of an abandoned Negro School house located on the East side facing Hwy 603 approximately 100 yards north of the former Library building which is now the Driver Permit Office. Edna Staub had reported that the first school in the Kiln was started by Father Schmidt.

## **The Kiln and Hancock County**

### **Hancock County**

When Louisiana became a state in 1812, its boundaries extended to the Pearl River, leaving the remaining West Florida lands from the Pearl to the Perdido River to be included in the Mississippi Territory. The land area south of the 31st parallel between Pearl River and the Bay of Biloxi was named Hancock County for John Hancock, president of the Continental Congress and first signer of the Declaration of Independence.

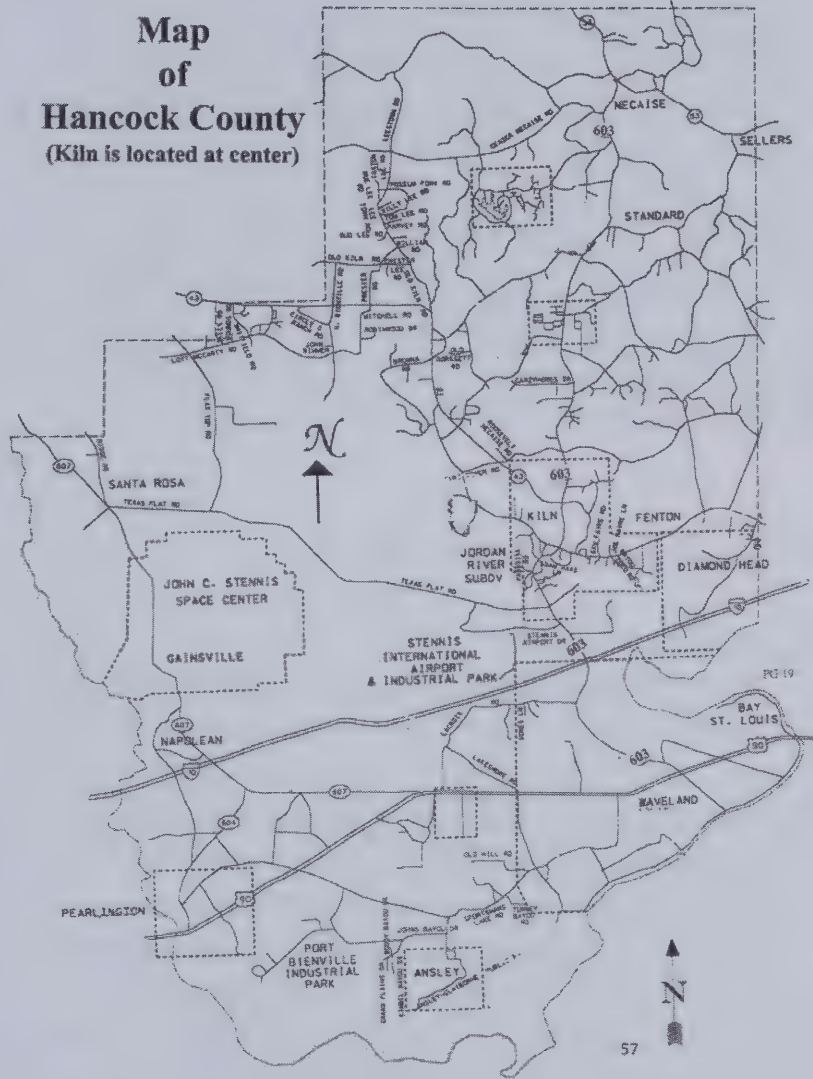
Today, Hancock County stretches along U.S. Highway 90 and Interstate 10, from the Pearl River to the Harrison County line. It is a healthy combination of piney woods, running streams and subtropical seashore. It is spellbinding to many of those who casually come just to visit, or to stay a lifetime. During the first hundred years of its existence, only a few hundred people were aware of the charm hidden north of its coastline. Mile after mile of tall timbers were seen only by a handful of French settlers and the sawmill crews which had passed through and passed on. Hancock's almost endless realm of trees and streams were ideal for the



hunter and fisherman. Its sprawling open cattle ranges were sparsely spotted by farming communities.

Today, rural electric power lines and secondary roads have penetrated its piney woods. Home-seekers are scouting the rivers and bayous off from the coast finding their way back farther and farther through the trees beyond the Interstate following the course of Highway 603. Huge suburban home developments and new homesites are spreading out past the outskirts of Bay St. Louis, along the Kiln road, along the Jourdan River and Bayou LaCroix, and all around Diamondhead.

**Map  
of  
Hancock County**  
(Kiln is located at center)



Hancock County, prior to 1970, was two separate worlds; the populated and popular beach area around urban cities of Bay St. Louis and Waveland and the practically unknown back country to the north. With the construction of Interstate 10 an increased opportunity and interest opened

new by-ways. Following Hurricane Camille, the development of Diamondhead further spearheaded this interest.

Since then, Hancock County can proudly point out to its visitors the beauty and availability of its woods and waters, and the attractive opportunities for comfortable modern living which exists back a few miles within the county. All, but a few minutes from the busy booming coast strip of Bay St. Louis and Waveland. Since time immemorial Hancock's chief sources of income have been tourists and timber. They still are. The tourist industry is growing steadily, and sought after aggressively as more and more travelers become aware of Hancock's pristine pine thickets. More people are exploring the area north of Interstate 10 as that cement ribbon is crossed by access exit roads to Stennis Space Center, the Kiln, and to Diamondhead.

## **Progeneration of the Kiln**

### **The Allied Families**

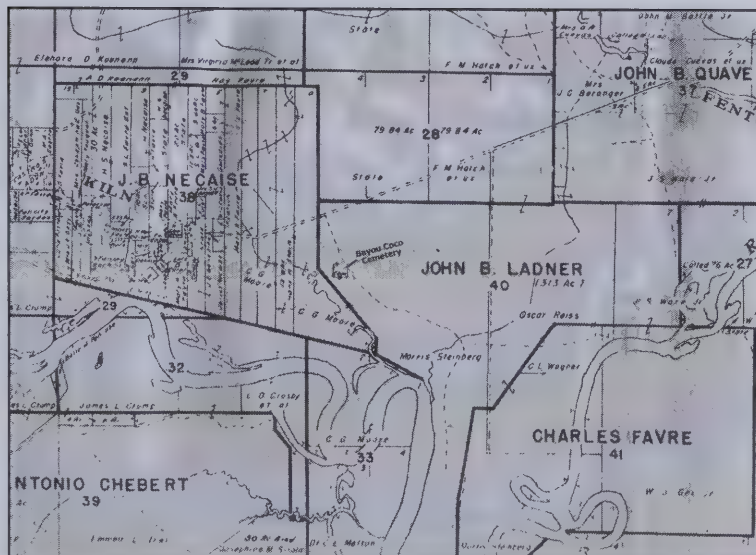
In reading from "*Wilderness Families of the Gulf Coast*" by Placide D. Nicaise – he reviews what he refers to as the "Allied Families."

The following are the family names: **Necaise, Cuevas, Dedeaux, Dubuisson, Favre, Ladner, Moran, and Saucier.** These are the predominant families that are considered the original founders and were given large grants of land to the Gulf Coast and inland areas.

Charles Favre settled on the Jourdan River at Rotten Bayou. Jean Baptiste Ladner settled on the Jourdan adjoining Favre on the north. Jean Baptiste Nicaise married Ladner's daughter, Genevieve, and moved from Bay St. Louis onto the Jourdan west of his father-in-law. Some of the Cuevas' (*Quave*) family members abandoned Cat Island and moved near their Ladner relatives.

The map shows the area at the top-left as the J. B. Nicaise claim, which included most of what is now *section 38*.

Genevieve's father, J. B. Ladner, lived on the section of land adjoining them to the east what is now *section 40*.



(Note: a **section** is an area nominally one square mile, containing 640 acres.)

The Nicaises and the Ladners, as well as all the “Allied Families” raised huge families in what was then wilderness.

They sought each other out, marrying in their early teens and having a dozen, or more, children in a lifetime. As their population grew, their kinship grew. It was a community of Allied Families who lived, loved and fought among themselves for all the generations to follow.

Women were either pregnant or nursing a baby from girlhood to middle age. All of their food initially came from forest, stream or Gulf waters. The men had to be hunters and fishermen. They had to clear land and build houses, boats, fences, and everything else that was a necessity of life. There were few ways to preserve food, no screens to keep out mosquitoes and flies, no doctors and no medicines. There was no school for the children except in the ways of the wilderness.

The men eventually gave up being hunters, farmers, boatmen or fishermen and became lumbermen.



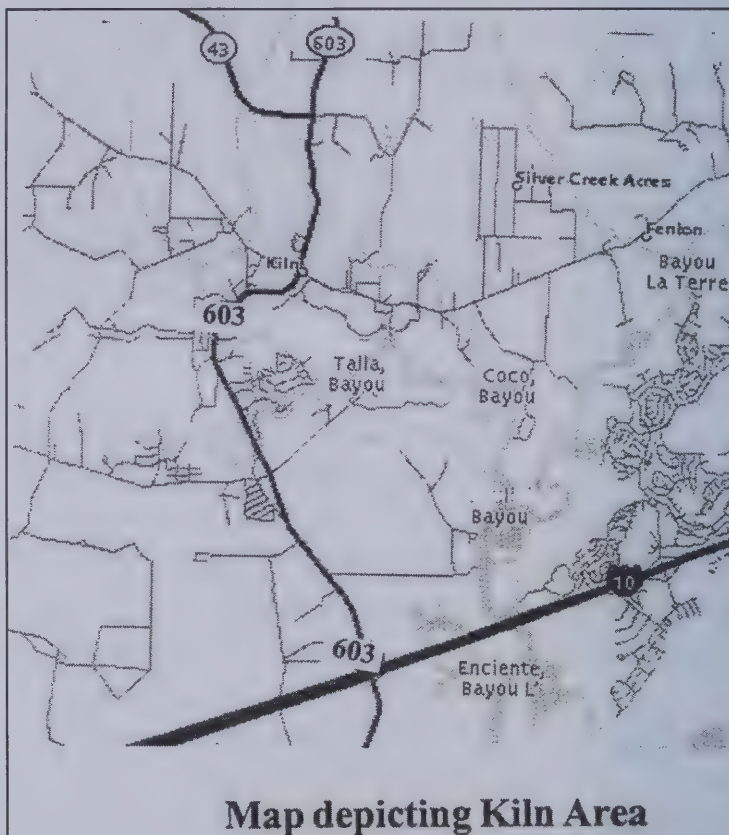
**Mike Henley** – describes naming of the Kiln

The "Kiln" was actually the name given the area immediately around the old lumber mill. This name carried on even after the Mill and all its buildings were dismantled and abandoned. It was primarily that area around Annunciation Church.

The area west of the Cross Road where the Broke Spoke is located and running south to the Bayou Talla creek was known as "Bayou Talla." Probably because of the roads which intersected at the Cross Road were named Kiln/Picayune to the West and Kiln/DeLisle to the East, then the overall area became known as "the Kiln."

Before automobile ferries, this was the earliest road system allowing people to go back and forth from New Orleans or Baton Rouge to the towns along the Gulf.

Mike Henley reported that his grandfather, a logger, drove a horse and wagon everyday until his death in 1972, never having driven an automobile or using a television. He stated that many of the older folks lived that way until just recently.



### **Kiln Business Council** - *affiliated with the Hancock Chamber of Commerce*

Heading the Council is Judith Renshaw. In beginning research for this update revision of the Kiln book in 2014, I was directed to Judith who gave me her time while seated in her business “The Deli,” anchoring the Alison Shopping Center in which she is a co-owner. Judith was quick to give me names and telephone numbers of Senator Philip Moran and Coach Larry Ladner. Both of these gentlemen offered suggestions to make this edition of Kiln Kountry a grander and more inspiring history.

### **Brett Favre Foundation**

In 1995, Brett and Deanna began their charity outreach by donating to 501c3 agencies providing support and services to disadvantaged and disabled children in Mississippi and Wisconsin.

A charity golf tournament in April 1998 benefitted local youth charities Special

Olympics, Make-A-Wish, Hope Haven, and Gaits-to-Success.

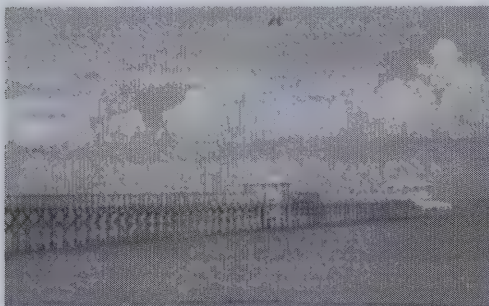
In 2005, after Deanna completed her treatment for breast cancer, the Favres extended their mission statement to include supporting organizations providing financial aid for breast cancer patients.

The Favre 4 Hope Foundation does not solicit grant applications but instead has chosen to partner with several charities.



## NASA Space Centers partnership in By-Ways to Space

### The Hancock County Scenic Byways System



INFINITY Science Center is one of the stars of the new Hancock County Scenic Byways system. The Center's surrounding countryside – with its captivating coastline, miles of pristine marshland teeming with wildlife, and peaceful pine forests – is a paradise for any nature-lover. Hundreds of historic homes, heritage sites and landmarks add to the ambiance, attracting visitors and new residents from across the country. Those unique assets have recently been recognized with a coveted Mississippi Scenic Byways designation.

On-going development of seven different byways – along with multiple birding, biking and walking trails, and blueways (marked waterway trails) – make it easy to explore or rediscover our treasure-trove of wonders.

"Byways to Space" is the only one of its kind in the country. It includes six stretches of roads covering more than thirty miles. The six routes run through or near the Stennis Space Center's (SSC) enormous 125,000 acre buffer zone. Often canopied by oaks, the roads meander through the countryside, passing the historic town of Pearlinton and former settlement sites like Logtown, Possum Walk and Napoleon.

An extensive series of "Discovery" trails are planned along the route, inviting birders, hikers and bicyclists to take a closer look at unspoiled vistas. Meanwhile, natural waterways criss-cross the route, with several parks offering the shade of grand oaks for a picnic lunch. Popular McLeod Water Park is open for camping and special events, serving as an easy entry point for the Jourdan River Blueway and other boating activities.



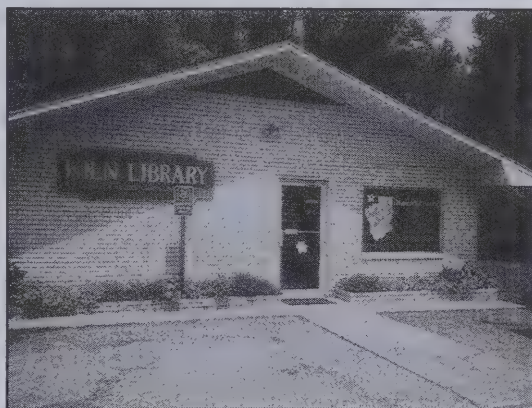
**NOTE:** The above is an extraction from NASA Infinity Brochure



## **Grand Opening 2000** for new Library Facility

Library service to Kiln and the surrounding communities began in the late 1960s, when the Mississippi Library Commission loaned a bookvan to Hancock County. In 1972, the Library Board and Board of Supervisors purchased a bookmobile for continued services to the area due to the press of readers. This was followed in 1977, with a trailer that was purchased and parked near the crossroads in the Kiln as a demonstration library.

As a permanent structure, in 1980, the Library Board and the County Supervisors purchased the Farm Bureau building near the crossroads, renovated it, and it was opened and dedicated as the first Kiln Library.



*Former Farm Bureau bldg turned Library*

Kiln community leaders formed the Kiln Library Advisory Board. This Board, chaired by L.J. Breaux, undertook the task to raise funds to build a library for the future and to provide interim direction during the construction of the new, modern, high-technology, library plant located on Hwy 603. Aided and assisted by the Hancock Library Board of Trustees and the Library Foundation of Hancock County, the initial goal of \$250,000 was easily attained.

Initial seed money for the project was derived from grants that were given through the Library Services and Construction Act and the Library Services and Technology Act in addition to funds from the Institutions of Museums and Libraries through the Mississippi Library Commission.

Finally, in 1999, the new Kiln Public Library was constructed with matching funds contributed from the Hancock County Board of Supervisors, the Hancock County Library System, and the Library Foundation of Hancock County. This was augmented by the Kiln Library Advisory Board, which joined with the Library Foundation to raise private and corporate funds for the project.

Through these efforts, local public officials and library supporters, had a ribbon cutting in dedication of the new Kiln Public Library on February 24, 2000. The building is situated on property that was purchased by the Library Foundation and donated to the County for the library construction.

Cutting the ribbon was performed by Philip Moran as other members of the Library Trustees, Library Foundation, Library Advisory Board, and other public officials and dignitaries look on.

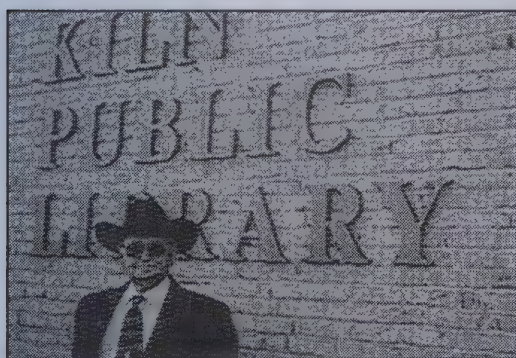




Rodrick "Rocky" Pullman, President, Hancock Board of Supervisors, looked out as he addressed the huge gathering.



Photo below at right shows Prima Plauche, then, Director, Hancock County Library System, as she introduced dignitaries at the Library opening.



Above, Left – L.J. Breaux, Chairman of the Kiln Library Advisory Board, heralded the new facility as a proof of faith representing the people who worked on the project as folks who had intense character.



## **1999 Developments continued with growth into the year 2000**

1999 – the Kiln Elementary School

1999 – hardware store

1999 – rental complex.

1999 – low cost merchandise store – Dollar General

1999 – new enlarged Post Office

## **Kiln Day**

*November 26, 2000*

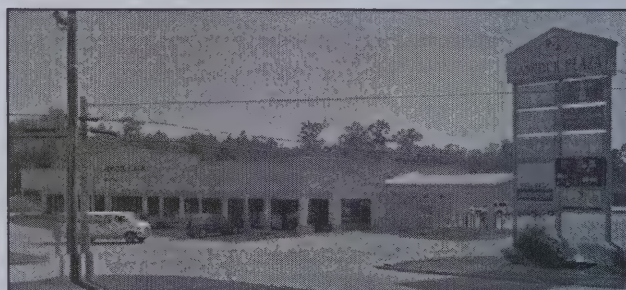
The Kiln community proved that it was in a “FastStart” position when the business leaders promoted Kiln Day on November 26, 2000. This was a follow-up to the grand opening of the Kiln Library Branch held in February that year.

The leaders realized that Kiln was the fastest growing area of Hancock County and proved it by celebrating three Grand Openings all in one day.

Hundreds of Countians arrived throughout the day – some remaining all day while others came and went several times in order to appear at the several dedications and a wrap-up open house that was sponsored by Steve and Mabel at the rejuvenated Broke Spoke.

### **Hancock Plaza**

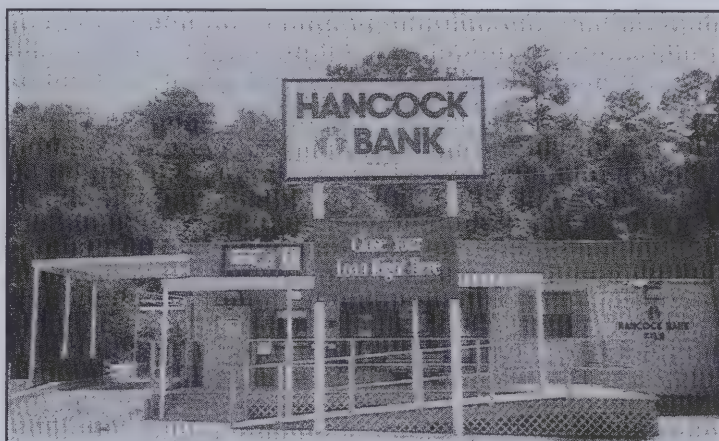
Completed in the year 2000, was the Hancock Plaza commercial facility that was built by its owners, Jerry and Lauly Peterson, who are local Kiln contractors and developers. The anchoring position was the Hancock Bank with other start-up lessees were the Medical Clinic, the Elise Eperson Sims Law Firm and Progressive Statewide Insurance.



## **Hancock Bank – at the Kiln**

To start the day, a large group including Hancock Bank officials and County public officer holders set the stage for the first dedication ceremonies with the formal opening of the Hancock Bank's new branch expansion on Hwy 603 containing 1300 square feet.

Prior to the move to its new quarters, the bank functioned in a trailer for five years – being operated by Tanya Dubuisson and Leslie Hoda. The trailer was situated in an area near the Cross Road next to the former D&K Quick Stop, now Keith's Superservice.

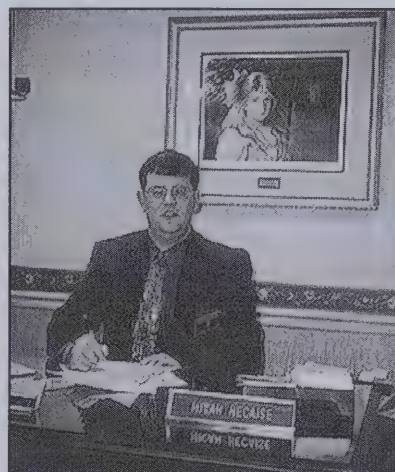


*Banking in a Trailer from 1995 to 2000*

The new Branch Manager was Micah Necaie who realized the opportunities since the Hancock was the only bank operating in the Kiln and had a large customer base to draw on. Where previously, very few loans were being made, now with a loan officer – the first few days promised an exciting and bright future.

The bank also has two drive-up windows, safe deposit boxes, and ATM machines.

Micah later became President at the Picayune Hancock Branch and the new Branch Manager is Connie Garcia.



*Micah Necaie*

Hancock Bank originated in Bay St. Louis on August 29, 1899 with an initial capitalization of \$10,000 and has grown during the past years to become the largest banking system on the Mississippi Gulf Coast with nearly 100 banking operations between Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas with well grounded assets.

## **Hancock Medical Center**

### *Family Care Clinic at the Kiln*

A second Grand Opening was at the new facilities opened by the Hancock Medical Center as part of its progressive expansion program to establish outreach health clinics in all of the populated communities of Hancock County. Administrator Hal Leftwich led the ceremonies at the new facility extending welcome to the well-wishers. "Our goal of high quality, convenient services prompts us to reach out from our main campus (at Hwy 90) to accommodate the changing needs of our community. The Clinic is situated in the Hancock Plaza commercial complex on Hwy 603.

## **Hancock County – Kiln Office**

Now as offices for the Drivers License Permit Office, in 2000 it served as a Tax Collector Satellite Service and Sheriff Department sub-station – the building was previously purchased for the Kiln Branch Library, and previously the former State Farm building. In 2000, the parking lot was filled with interested onlookers who joined the attending governing officials to administer a ribbon cutting.



*Former State Farm/Kiln  
Library building.*



In 2000, Father McNerny opened with benediction, followed by members of the VFW who were lead by Cleo Dunhurst. When they unfoiled the Flag and



raised it, the large attending audience pledged their allegiance. This was followed by several talks including the Sheriff and the Tax Collector.

From left to right: Tax Collector Jimmy Ladner, RD Gerald, Glen Evans, Gene Ramsey, Cleo Dunhurst, and Sheriff Steve Garber.



## **Wrap Up at the Broke Spoke**



Following the full day of ceremonies, the audiences that attended the all day long dedications were treated to Gumbo and other foods at the Broke Spoke as hosted by Steve and Mabel Haas.

The 1999 fire at the Broke Spoke destroyed the original funky memorabilia, but which was slowly being replaced by new and old initiates to the Kiln's hot spot.

The Year 2000 was a banner year for Ribbon cutting. First with the Hancock Kiln Public Library, followed by the Hancock Plaza, followed by the County Satellite Office, and a grand evening at the Broke Spoke.



## **The Kiln Kiln Business Council**

(submitted by Judith Redshaw)



The Kiln Business Council was organized, and is sponsored by, the Hancock County Chamber of Commerce, to serve the businesses, citizens, and civic organizations in the unincorporated areas north of I-10.

The objectives of the Kiln Business Council are to promote the economic, civic, and social well being of the Kiln area. Membership is open to all business representatives, and representatives of the various civic groups, such as Friends of McLeod Park, Kiln Library, elected officials.

The general membership meetings are held once a quarter, and an ad hoc board meets when there is need. A Christmas Party at a member's home is always a chance for all to meet socially.

The Chairman of the KBC is Judith Redshaw, and Staff is Tish Williams.

During the past year, the group has made major strides:

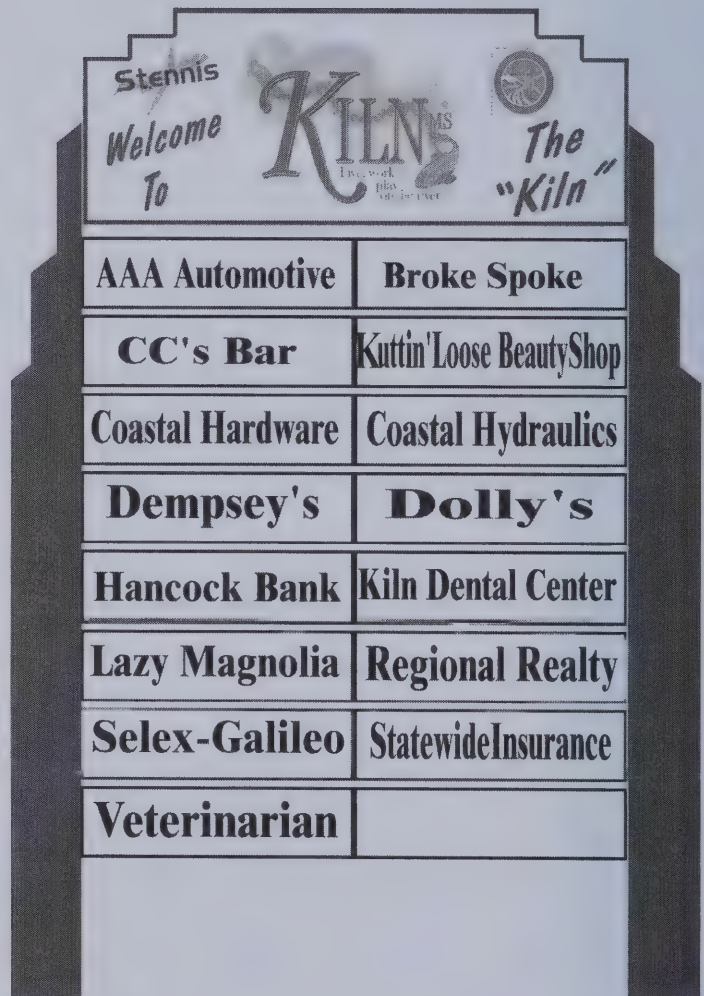
1. Prepared a map that details area resources and businesses.
2. Members integrated into major offices and committees of the Hancock Chamber.
3. A major fund raiser is held at Lazy Magnolia Brewery, which brings revenue for our projects.
4. Conduct a Fishing Rodeo at McLeod Park to help attract all citizens of the Gulf Coast to our wonderful waters and park.



5. Conduct small business workshops focused on marketing, technology, business planning, tax issues.
6. We sponsor seminars to assist citizens in special needs, such as a seminar conducted by attorney, Trent Favre, on how to deal with property issues.
7. Coordinate with Friends of McLeod Park and the Hancock County Parks and Recreation Commission to support McLeod Park improvements.

**Goals are:** Beautification, a Welcome Sign, and a bike/walking trail from McLeod Park to downtown Kiln (see attached write-up).

Each year, a Kiln Business is selected as Kiln Business of the Year, and is recognized at the Hancock County Chamber of Commerce Gala. This year's winner was Coastal Hydraulics. Also, Dempsey's Restaurant, in Kiln, was recognized by the Board of Supervisors as Hancock County Business of the Year. Leslie Henderson, co-owner with her husband, Mark, of Lazy Magnolia Brewery in Kiln, was named Outstanding Citizen this year.



## **Proposed Kiln Bike Path as part of Improvements to Hwy 603.**

The proposed path links the Kiln Library to McLeod Park — passing through the heart of Kiln, MS. Such a trail would be a tourism boon for the Kiln and central Hancock County, as it would provide safe biking and walking trails that would link businesses with people engaged in environmental tourism that already visit McLeod Park.



The trail would follow Texas Flat on the North Side of the Road, and stay on the North or West side of 603. There are two bridges that have to be crossed at the Jordan River and at Bayou Talla.

Terminating the trail at the Kiln Library provides a rich focal point for the community, and will likely increase awareness and utility of the library's walking path and other amenities. The trail would also provide a vital link between a growing industrial park, residential, and commercial areas.

After reviewing several resources online it seems that costs for a bike path or walking trail are between \$50 and \$150 per foot.

If the project were combined with an ongoing or existing project to make other improvements to the road, it seems that the additional cost would be less than \$50 per foot. The proposed trail is approximately 23,000' which places the cost around \$1.1M.

The project could be done in phases. Logical phases would include: McLeod Park to just North of the Jordan River, Jordan River to VFW drive in the Kiln, and from VFW drive to the library. Priority would likely be on the middle



section, as Hwy 603 is critically dangerous. Additionally, the recent construction and relatively wide shoulder on Texas Flat make that less critical to establishing the long term viability and interest in the project.

As a community we have observed several people riding their bikes on Hwy 603, and occasionally people have been killed. Studies have indicated that local residents do not ride bikes, but that is an indication that they are aware of the risks associated with riding on Hwy 603, and should not be construed as an indication that people are not interested in riding their bikes on such a trail.

The center section is approximately 1.7 miles, or 9000'. At \$50 per foot, the project would cost about \$450,000.

If the trail gathers use after completion, other offshoots include extending the trail to the proposed recreation area at Hwy 43 and connections to the Hancock County Arena.

If the project were funded at 80% from the State, that would leave approximately \$100,000 that would need to be raised locally.





**Philip Moran — Mississippi State Senator  
– District 46 - Hancock, Harrison**

**Graduate:** Mississippi State University

**Owner:** Philips Pest Control, LLC

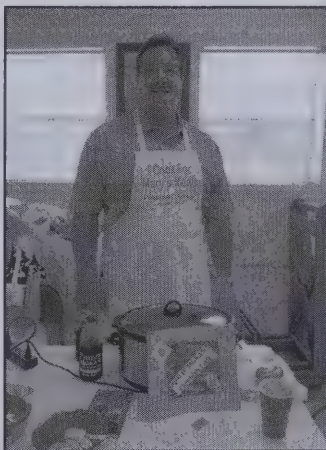
**Legislative Experience:** 2012 -present

**Committee Memberships:**

Veterans and Military Affairs - Vice-Chair,  
County Affairs, Economic Development, Finance,  
Highways and  
Transportation, Labor,  
– Wildlife, Fisheries  
and Parks.

**Civic Memberships:**

Knights of Columbus,  
Hancock Rotary Club,  
Hancock Chamber of  
Commerce, Business &  
Professional  
Association and MSU  
Alumni.



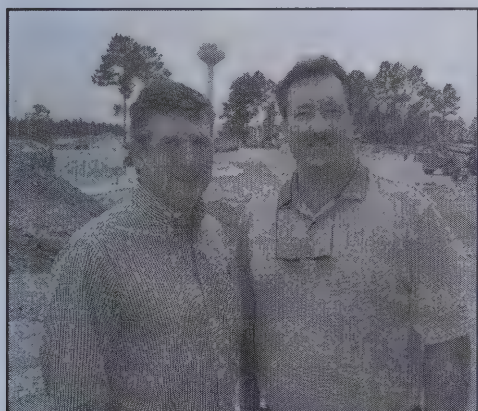
*Chef Moran*



Coach Ladner, Nell Frisbie, and Sen. Moran



Former US Congressman, Gene Taylor,  
Sea Bee Base C.O. - Capt. Paul J.  
Odenthal and Sen. Moran



*Diamondhead Mayor Schafer  
with Sen. Moran*

Senator Moran was born in Bay St Louis on March 6, 1961. He is married to the former Sheila Morris; they have two children, Lori and Alan.

## Touring the Kiln

I came to know the Kiln area after having purchased two lots in the Jourdan River Shores area in 1968. The lots were situated on a point that jutted into the river forming a peninsula – which I had hoped one day to build on. After Hurricane Camille, in 1972, my interests changed to the house I purchased in Pass Christian. However, boating and water skiing were my delights — when I could haul my 18 foot Boston Whaler and drop it off at any place that had water access. This included many places along Jourdan River and several bayous in the vicinity.

Before Hurricane Katrina I made many passes into the Kiln area mostly to dine at Rooster's Restaurant and to drop by the VFW and the Broke Spoke.

However I never made many resource contacts until 1997 when I began research on the first Edition of my book, *"Kiln Kountry – Home of Brett Farve."*



Now, in 2014, nearly twenty years later, I am discovering the new and renewed – but still fondly – the old Kiln Kountry I had come to know.

In seeking out the folks I knew 20 years ago, some are still thankfully here and, sadly, others have passed on.

I am very thankful for the advice and counsel given during interviews with Lynn Nell Glass Curet and her husband Jimmie; Billie Faye Lyons; J.E. Favre; Andrew Lott; and with Father Henry.

## **Three Rivers**

In the old days, the region of Mississippi that was referred to as Three Rivers was named a mission site by the early Catholic priests and today serves as a pristine area for beautiful languishing homesites and its recreational water sports includes boating, skiing, swimming, and fishing.

**The Pearl River** was so named for the pearls found near its mouth by the early French and Canadian explorers who arrived with d'Iberville in 1699. The Indians, upon eating oysters, did the natural thing by spitting out the hard "rocks" found between the oyster shells as they would only eat the fleshy meat. It was these "rocks" that gave name to the river.

**The Wolf River** was so named for the many wild timber wolves that prowled the area at *Riviere des Loups*, Wolf River, and the town was first called Wolftown, but now is known as DeLisle. It was not unusual for a man to be treed for hours while being held at bay and threatened by the howls of the wild. The early French settlers learned to dig wolf-pits, well baited and covered with palmetto fronds in order to trap the wolves.

**The Jourdan River**, earlier called the "St. Germaine" by the French was later renamed for the Jourdan brothers, Noel and Jean. This river played an important role in the development of the Kiln. First as a means of transportation for the early settlers, later as an avenue to transport timber and naval stores. Then, it became the famed gateway for Al Capone's rum-running activities, and the waterway for "moonshining."



## Stennis Space Center and Buffer Zone



By viewing the map above, it is easy to see how the NASA complex changed the layout of Hancock County in 1962.

It was a formidable project in building the NASA infrastructure to support the lunar-landing program. It was an awesome task in obtaining over 200 square miles of land in Mississippi and Louisiana and then constructing a unique static-testing facility in the midst of a boggy swamp and a desolate forest.

Acquisition of the buffer zone required the elimination of the towns of Napoleon, Logtown, Westonia, and Santa Rosa. With them, their histories have disappeared. Many of these towns had similar histories to that of the Kiln.

The Kiln has some of the most beautiful streams and bayous along the coastal inland, including Bayou LaTerre, Bayou Talla, Rotten Bayou, and Joe-Toni Bayou. Each of these winding waterways feed into the Jourdan River. The Joe-Toni, was once navigable, but through the years has been silted in by erosion and is accessible only to sports fishermen.

### **Bayou Talla** — by Ann and Omer Haas

It was September 1860, at age 28, when Francois Haas rode his horse across the ford on Bayou Talla for the first time. It was already an old road having been worn by the tread of Indian moccasins.

Francois came from the old country with his father when he was five years old. They brought with them a stave mill which they set up at nearby Pearl River. However, he had paused during his journey to buy 80 acres of land along the bayou, on which he later settled following the Civil War, thereby providing roots for his descendants to pursue.

*Stave mills produce the narrow strips of wood that compose the sides of barrels. Barrels were vital for the transportation of goods in the days before easily fabricated boxes and waterproof plastic containers.*

The name of the bayou comes from the Indian word "Talla", meaning still water, and the French word "Bayou", meaning sluggish stream. Its head waters lie within NASA's buffer zone where human habitation is now prohibited.

Bayou Talla empties into the Jourdan River having its own tidal flow of unsullied fresh water and a bottom surface of beautiful white sand. It is favored by being navigable year-long with an exceptional population of fish.

In the years following the departure of the lumber mills and the moonshine kilns, the entire area had become reclaimed by nature's prolific regeneration of trees, bushes, and marsh grass. However, underneath the vegetation some reminders can still be seen.

That which still remains is the concrete base of the giant kiln. It still stands close to the river bank rendering an image of an old gun fortress. It stands about 10-feet-tall within the thickets and bushes.



A few steps beyond, one can hear the sound of spurting water where a free-flowing artesian well continues to pour out vast quantities of water, 24-hours-a-day, and has been ongoing for the past seventy years.

Occasionally, another well can be seen across the river when it is not submerged by river tides. The artesian wells pour freely through steel pipes that have been left uncapped.

Just a bit further west was a large mound of sawdust which was left behind as it stood guard for nearly three-fourths of a century.

There is also a log pond and assorted concrete buttresses that once formed a part of the old mill factory.



## **Hancock County Growth**

Hancock County, prior to 1970, was two separate worlds; the populated and popular beach area around urban cities of Bay St. Louis and Waveland and the practically unknown back country. But now it can proudly point out to its visitors the beauty and availability of its woods and waters, and the attractive opportunities for comfortable modern living which exists back a few miles within the county. All, but a few minutes from the busy booming coast strip of Bay St. Louis and Waveland. Since time immemorial Hancock's chief sources of income have been tourists and timber.

They still are. The County's tourist industry continues to grow steadily, and is easily understood as more and more travelers become aware of Hancock's pristine pine thickets. More people are exploring the area north of Interstate 10 as that cement ribbon is crossed by access exit roads to the Kiln, Jourdan River Shores, and to Diamondhead. Many small developments are found northerly along Hwy 603/43 and west and east from the Kiln along the roads to Picayune or to DeLisle.

## **Stats**

Kiln is located in south Mississippi being a part of Hancock County. Kiln has 13.16 square miles of land area and 0.25 square miles of water area. As of 2010, the total Kiln population was 2,238, which has grown 9.71% since 2000. The population growth rate is much higher than the state average rate of 4.31% and is about the same as the national average rate of 9.71%. Kiln median household income was \$35,163 in 2008-2012. On average, the public school district that covers Kiln is much better than the state average in quality. The Kiln area code is 228.

## **Places to Visit**

Since Glass's Place (the Cow Shed) and Melva's Place have remained in the hearts of so many Kilnians, and the two "places" are depicted on the cover of this book, the "Cross Roads" is a good place from which to originate our tour.

Even though both of the original establishments are gone forever, the site locations hold fast at the crossroad where a traffic light now warns motorists of the intersection. The 3-color light signal replaced a blinking Red warning light in 1989. A generation or two has passed since families from surrounding miles would congregate on weekends to meet, hear the music, tap their toes, or raise their legs to a dance. Others played cards in the back room, some played pool, others took a sip outside from their "private stock" and the children frolicked around the yards running in and out to report back to their parents every period or so.

Also, at the Cross Roads, were the cows and calves that gathered each evening as they wandered in from open pastures from where they grazed. Abiding the call of their masters they were sure to find feed to make them more content.

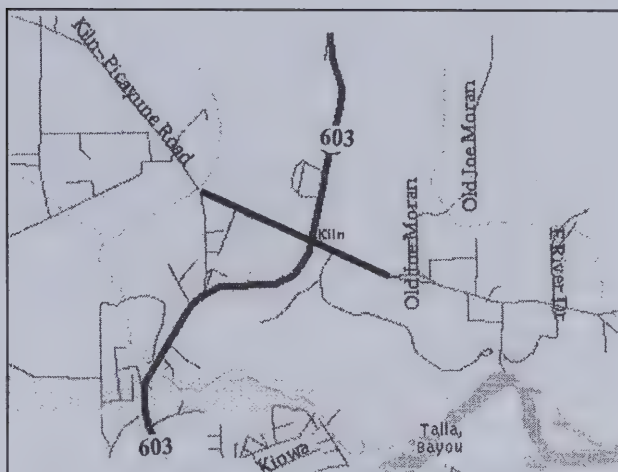
Today, local folks still congregate at the crossroad, or near this busy intersection while gassing-up at Dolly's or Keith's, each of which offer convenience store shopping and fast food selections.

Any day of the week, morning 'til night, where once the cows would browse and the roosters would roost, now there is a convergence of local young folk who drift in to meet with each other and pass the time in social gaiety.

## **Getting Around the Kiln**

## North/South Tour

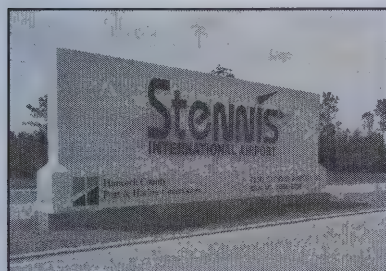
From the “Kiln Cross Road” at the traffic lights, we can go east to Picayune, west to DeLisle and the Gulf coast, north to numerous towns and settlements or south to Waveland and Bay St. Louis and the Gulf coast.



Having four access spokes to start from, our Tour will begin from the outer edge inward to the Cross Road, beginning with Hwy 603/43 driving from Interstate 10 -Exit 13 – four miles to Downtown Kiln.

Upon driving northward, on the left side of the highway is a 3-story office building – where, among others, Senator Philip Moran keeps an office.

Further North, we encounter our first traffic light signaling the intersection



entrance to reach Stennis International Airport, the

North Central Hancock High School and Middle School complexes, and several businesses including Lazy Magnolia Brewery.



## **Stennis International Airport**

Stennis International Airport is a public use airport that is owned by the Hancock County Port and Harbor Commission. The airport is located eight nautical miles northwest of the central business district of Bay St. Louis, Mississippi and four miles by road from the Kiln.

The facility is included in the National Plan of Integrated Airport Systems for 2011–2015, which categorized it as a general aviation facility.

During World War II, the airport was known as Hancock County Airport, and was used as an auxiliary training airfield supporting the Army pilot training school at Gulfport Army Airfield. It eventually opened for civil use in May 1970.

### **Facilities and aircraft**

Stennis International Airport covers an area of 591 acres having an elevation of 23 feet above mean sea level. It has one runway designated 18/36 with an asphalt surface measuring 8,497 by 150 feet which runs North and South.



For the 12-month period ending January 31, 2012, the airport had 63,600 aircraft operations, an average of 174 per day: 90% general aviation and 10%

military. At that time there were 35 aircraft based at this airport: 74% single-engine, 14% multi-engine, 6% jet, and 6% ultralight.

The Kiln Area Airport is the "getting bigger and better." The Stennis Airport places Hancock County in a competitive position with New Orleans because of location and projected accommodations. U.S. Senator Trent Lott had always swung his powerful support behind more facilities.

United Aircraft is the fixed base operator at Stennis.



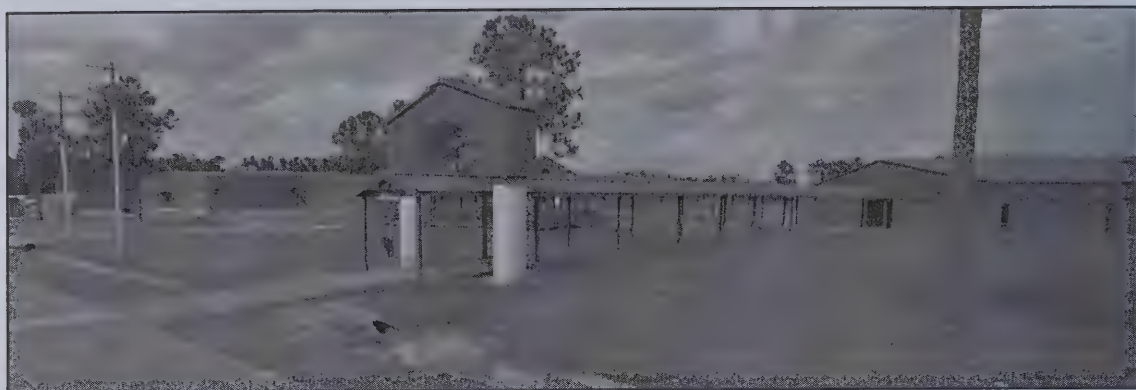
**Hancock North Central Highschool** complex showing classroom buildings and athletic field. (*courtesy of Google*)

### **The High School**

The school complex is a sprawling campus in the woods consisting of buildings ambling off into different directions connected by a network of cement pathways.







**The Middle School** is also located in this exclusive educational district.



## **Lazy Magnolia Brewery**

From Stennis Airport Road we take a right on Fred and Al Key Rd. The

brewery is located at the back of the building.





## Texas Flat Road

The entrance to Texas Flat is off Hwy 603 before crossing the bridge to Jourdan River Shores. Below: One end of the Airport runway can be seen from Texas Flat Road with a view of the hangers.



Texas Flat Road is also access to many interesting sites along the way including McLeod Park, pronounced McCloud.

The **Byways to Space** network is the only one of its kind in the country. This scenic byway includes six routes that cover more than 30 miles through or near the NASA Stennis Space Center's (SSC) 125,000-acre buffer zone. Often canopied by oaks, the roads and trails meander through the scenic countryside, passing former historic settlement sites, scenic vistas, natural waterways, and parks perfect for hikers, bicyclists, birders, kayakers, and nature lovers.



## McLeod Park

The jewel of the Santa Rosa Scenic Byway is McLeod Park, which was created under the President Nixon initiative to convert federal land to state parks.

McLeod State Park is located on the Jourdan River in Kiln. There is a 2.5 mile long nature trail that runs through a southern mixed hardwood forest and traverses a bayhead swamp. Educational signs provide useful information about the local flora and there are numerous lookouts along the river from which to scan for any waterbirds that might be present.

McLeod has a remarkable range of recreational facilities and opportunities associated with its primary function as a state park.

Opportunities include fishing, boating, boat ramps, canoeing, kayaking, tubing, a hiking trail, canoe/paddle boat rental, lighted ball field, pavilion, picnic area, and playground.

The site has been operated since opening in May 1975, by the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries & Parks requiring entry and camping fees.





The memorial park was originally a donation from the McLeod family. Albert McLeod operated a turpentine still and general store on the west corner of the Jourdan River off the Highway.



*McLeod Family Reunion*

To further grow the park, James Norton Haas Sr. was instrumental in obtaining additional funding for Hancock County, through the Pearl River Basin Development District. It became a multi-million dollar recreational park on the Jourdan River west of Hwy 603 dedicated as the "McLeod Memorial Park" in memory of his aunt and uncle, Mr. And Mrs. A. J. McLeod.

This 328-acre-tract of woodland was further added to by a gift from the National Space Technology Laboratories. It is presently maintained as a project of the Pearl River Basin Development District.

Accommodations at the Park are primarily for camping and picnicking. Besides the main picnic area with 20 tables, there are cooking facilities, and two comfort stations with showers. Nearby is a ballfield with bleachers, a two story pavilion, and a general store. For campers, there is a camping loop with many parking sites available with RV hookups. There are twin launching ramps and a one-mile hiking Nature Trail with foot bridges. A caretaker is on-premises and area lighting is provided for the evenings.



## **Cemetery**

Just a 100 yards west of the McLeod Park entrance can be found one of the many lovely small cemeteries which dot the entire area, most of which are private family owned.

Fencing was a common practice which were installed as protection from rooting wild hogs and sometimes provided an enclosed area for restricted private use.



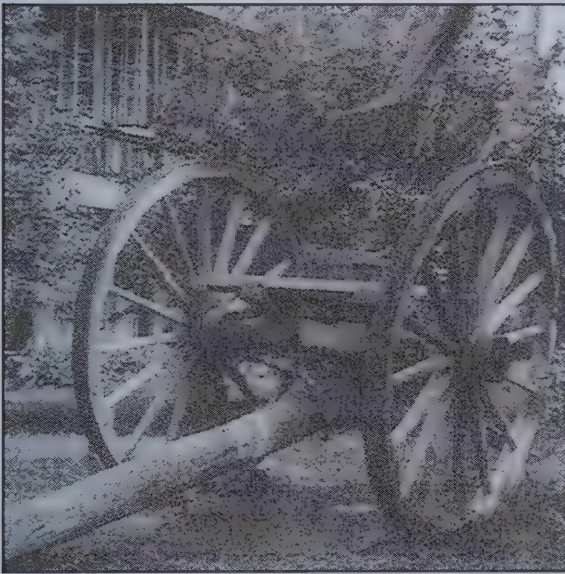
## **Holly Bluff**

Holly Bluff is located off Highway 603 on Crump Road by way of a private road to the beautiful gardens of the Jordan River. In 1933, Mr. and Mrs. James L. Crump acquired this site which was a former Indian settlement. The Crumps developed the area by reforestation and cultivating magnificent gardens which have become nationally recognized as a special showplace on the Gulf Coast. The estate occupies thirty-seven hundred acres with ten miles of water frontage.



The massive log cabin lodge was home to the owners. It is constructed entirely of red cypress beams with more than 6,000 hand hewn "shakes" or shingles of seasoned cypress and juniper atop its roof.

The gardens occupy 50 acres alone, with two miles of paths covered with soft pine needles. A feature of the garden is the variety of holly trees, including giant Southern hollies along with Chinese, Korean and English importations. Along shaded paths are countless varieties of camellias, azaleas, ardesia, mountain laurel, spiraea, iris, gardenia, ferns and much more.



**Waterwheel pumps water from well**

An added feature on the grounds is "The Little Museum", which is comprised of many collections of art objects and oddities of fancy.

In the cemetery will be found the Statue of Louis IX, namesake for Bay St. Louis. The marble statue was brought from Rigny, France.



## **Jourdan River Shores**

Jourdan River Shores is a family residential development along the Jourdan River off Highway 603. Most of the residences are raised on pilings by way of flood water restrictions and are laid out along natural and man-made water inlets that access the Jourdan River.

The subdivision is operated by a Property Owners Association that provides good governance and security.

The river's namesake, Noel Jourdan, was a delegate to the Mississippi Constitution Convention and was a State Representative for Hancock County at the First General Assembly in 1818.

**Continuing northward on Hwy 603/43** – after passing Jourdan River Shores we encounter a small bridge that crosses Bayou Talla and we encounter an RV resort along the way.



*The map shows Hwy 603/43 from bottom left to top right where the Kiln Cross Road and traffic light is located. A portion of Jourdan River Shores is at bottom.*



*Bayou Talla*



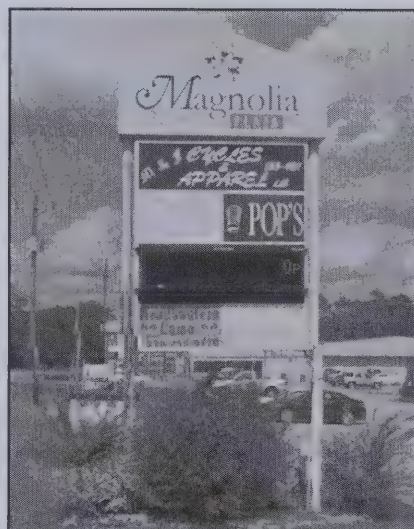
As we approach the main part of the Kiln, what becomes evident since 2000 is the growth, expansion, and construction of strip shopping centers allowing for added retail stores and businesses.



The first of which is the newest shopping mall, the Magnolia Plaza.

The major anchor is Pop's – touting “*Pop's Southern Comfort Food*” –

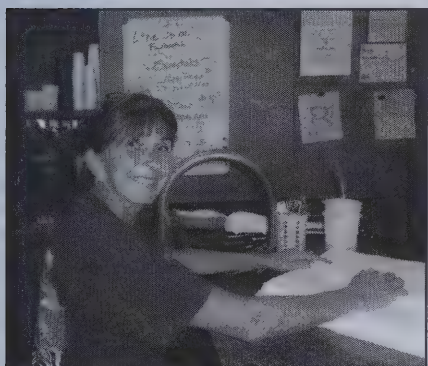
Owner Daphne Lott, daughter of Andy and Lee Lott who owned and operated the former Roosters's Restaurant, named the new restaurant after her Pop — therefore the naming, “Pop's.”



Upon entering the restaurant – I

ordered a beer and the lady gave me a smile in recognition and I then became reacquainted with Dotty, one of the two of Dotty's Quick Stop further down the highway, northward.

We had a nice chat catching up with the happenings in the Kiln since my first exploratory visit in 1997.



*Dotty*

Of course I checked out the menu and made a very satisfying catfish lunch.

A typical menu at Pop's is as follows:

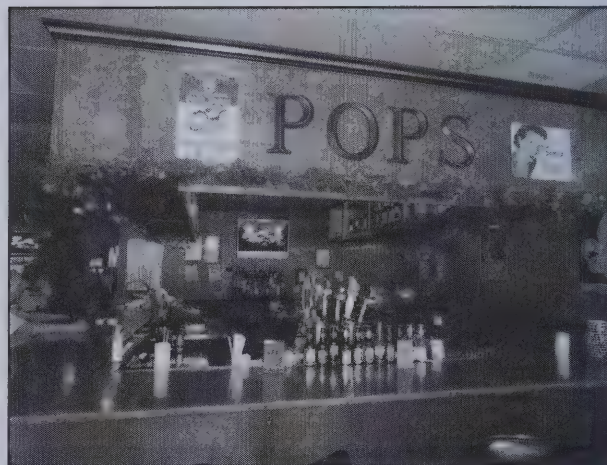
***Mondays Lunch Specials***

*~Red Beans and rice with a pork chop or catfish*

*~Fried bologna egg and cheese on toast with fries*

*~Fried Catfish (thin cut) and crawfish tails platter with fries and coleslaw*

***COME JOIN US FOR LUNCH!!!!***



*Bar side of the Restaurant*

Next door is a Dollar General store that was built in 1998.



And next to the Dollar General is a shopping center called Hancock Plaza. The anchor being the Hancock Branch Bank.

**The Hancock Bank**

The bank was originally located in a trailer next to the D&K Quick Stop (now a Keith's Superstore). It had its Grand Re-opening in October of



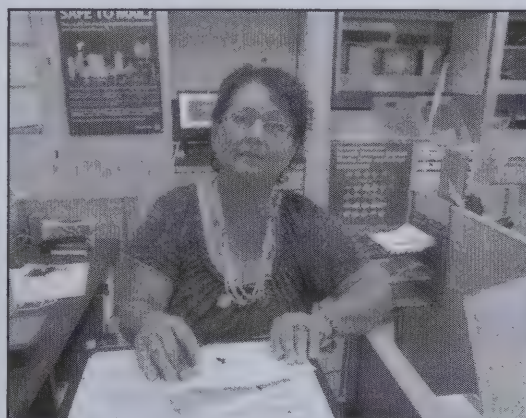
1999 after it moved to this new location.

The financial institution originated in Hancock County, at Bay St. Louis, on August 29, 1899 with an initial capitalization of \$10,000 and has grown during the past 100 years to become the largest banking system on the Mississippi Gulf Coast.



## **The Kiln Post Office**

Going next door on Highway 603 is the modern edifice known as the "Ray J. Favre Post Office Building" that was built in 1999. It serves the Greater Kiln Area, known postally as zip code 39556. The Postmaster administers and serves approximately twenty seven hundred residents which are handled by four mail carriers and dispatchers.



The newest Postmaster appointment is Postmistress Pamela Dossett.

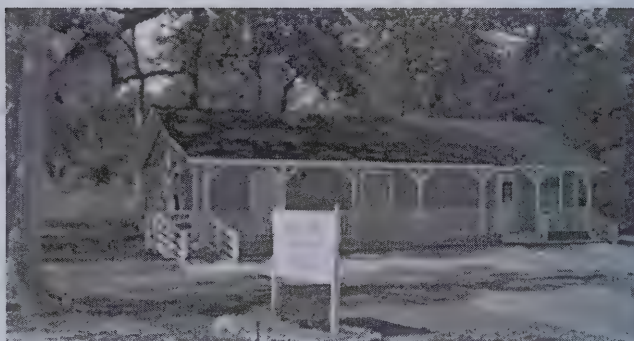


**Kiln Postmasters:** Jan 1887 - Emilio Cue; Oct 1887 - Charles Favre; Jul 1891 - Ellen Cue; Jun 1905 - Eddie Favre; Aug 1906 - William Curet; Apr 1908 - John Herlihy; May 1909 - Fred Lockfield; Nov 1909 - John Ulysses; Nov 1914 - Charles Pettibone; Apr 1918 - Bettie Came; Jun 1920 - James Smith; Mar 1922 - Hilda Curet; Apr 1941 - Ray Favre; Jun 1976 - Jarvis Bishop; Jun 1985 - Walter Bennington; May 1989 - John Floyd; Jun 1993 - Gilbert Fairley; May 1996 - Rick Baker; Jun 2008 - Mary G. Klein; May 2014 - Pamela Dossett;



## **Smith Family Chiropractic**

Across the Hwy from these businesses is one of the local chiropractic offices.



## Alison Plaza

Immediately next is the Alison Plaza, one of the newest shopping strips on the highway.



## Coastal Hardware

Across the highway from Alison Plaza is the Coastal Hardware and Rental store. It was first built and opened in 1999 – however, Hurricane Katrina did it severe damage which has resulted in a brand new hardware and rental store.



*The first business opened in 1999 was destroyed by Hurricane Katrina in 2005*

Owner, MaryAnn Strickland, has been operating in one of its warehouses while the new building was under construction.





The new Coastal Hardware & Rental Grand Opening is expected in December 2014. A bigger and stronger hardware and equipment and tool rental plant.



### **The Ice House at VFW and Fire Dept roads**

Following northward around the bend in the roadway is a fork to two well traveled roads – the VFW Road and the Fire Dept Road – and at the juncture is the Ice House. These are terms the locals use for reference points when giving directions.





## **Kiln Produce**

Just ahead on the left is the local “farmer’s market” called the Kiln Produce – owned and operated by Mike Henley and daughters.



*Kiln Produce*

## **Family Dollar**

Next and northward is the Family Dollar store ...



Just north – past  
the turn in the road  
is

**The Lock Up Self  
Storage facility**



And across from the  
Storage entrance is  
**AAA Automotive  
Transmission  
Repair**



Continuing around  
the turn is  
**Mr. Wok's**  
for Oriental cuisine



In 1999, the same  
place was operated as one of the Don's  
Seafood chain restaurants.





Next and adjoining is a **Keith's Superstore** – a Chain operation



In the 1998 version of this book, the gas station was known as ***D & K Quick Stop*** – The building was built by Kenny Alison in 1986.

Note the gas prices were \$1.02 for low grade.



This is the same location where ***Melva's Place*** was situated in the 1930s to 1960s.





## Dolly's Quick Stop

In 1998, when owners, Keith and Steve Lee, were asked about the name "Dolly's" – They stated, "Easy, we both married Dollys!"

Since then, one of the



Dollys has moved on and the other Dolly, when asked about an update for this edition – she stated the business was started in August of 1991 and that Keith's daughter Lindsey was now the day manager. Asked about the economy, she stated, "It Grows and Stalls!" When asked about the outside sign – she said

went with Hurricane Katrina and never replaced.



Dolly's can't be missed with all the signage that surrounds it. On Hwy 603 – is the large sign welcoming Brett Favre fans. On the Kiln/Picayune Road side is a mural of Team helmets.



*The helmets depict each team Brett Favre played for.*

Wisconsin Fan and retired businessman Pete D'Amico hauled the sign and goal post (at left) from his former restaurant in Wisconsin and erected and changed the sign befitting his wish for the Kiln.

### **You are at the Cross Road.**

North and South was originally called the Poplarville Road – after improvements circa 1960 the name was changed to Hwy 603. From the right side, the road is called Kiln/DeLisle Road and from the left, it is the Kiln/Picayune Road.

Dolly's on the left and Keith's on the right – across the road in the vacant lot (top right quadrant) was the Cow Shed.





Further North from the vacant corner shown in the photo above was Rooster's Restaurant. Hurricane Katrina did its damage in 2005, resulting in the building being razed.

Today, only the concrete slab remains.



### **Drivers License Permit Office**

Directly across Hwy 603 is the Permit office which in 1998 served as the Kiln Library before its move to its new and larger quarters further north.



### **Kiln Public Library**

Less than a mile further North is the new Kiln Public Library that officially opened on February 24, 2000, with a ribbon cutting ceremony and open house.

Following Hurricane Katrina and its damages, the Library reopened on September 12, 2005, serving the public with Internet computers, satellite telephones, copy and fax services, along with traditional library services and



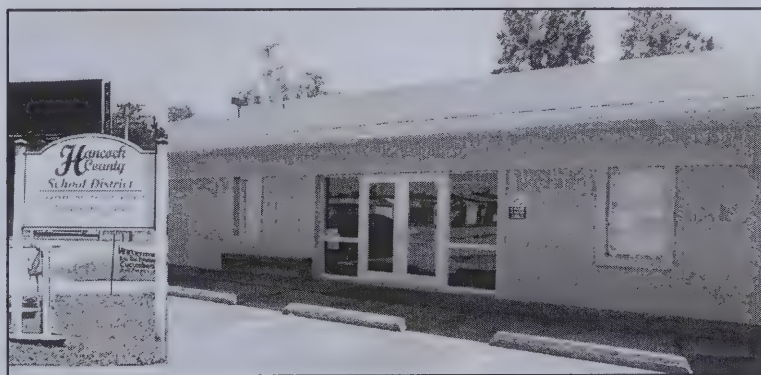
disaster recovery information. It also served as a volunteer registration center, whereby volunteers from across the country registered there and residents needing assistance registered.

The new branch was featured in an article in *Mississippi Libraries* and the project won a coveted photograph spot in *Library Journal's* December 2000 architectural issue.



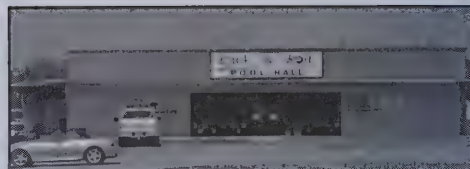
## **Board of Education Offices**

Less than a mile further north are the offices for the Superintendent of Education and his staff.



## **Failla Plaza & Storage Center**

Pharmacist Chris Failla acquired the property in 2003 where he also has his Pharmacy situated.



*Pool Hall*



## **Farm Bureau Building**

Located approximately ½ mile continuing North on right.



## **Coast Electric**

Passing  
the Hwy  
43  
intersection on the  
right is the  
Coast  
Electric



Power Association building.

Coast Electric provides residents in three southern Mississippi counties with electricity. The utility uses a 6,400-mile distribution network to serve its more than 76,000 members (the great majority of which are residential customers) in Hancock, Pearl River, and Harrison counties.

In earlier days, the **Rural Electrification Act** of 1935 provided federal loans for the installation of electrical distribution systems to serve rural areas of the United States.

The funding was channeled through cooperative electric power companies, most of which still exist today. These member-owned cooperatives purchased power on a wholesale basis and distributed it using their own network of transmission and distribution lines.

When it was known as REA, the operation in the Kiln began in a small garage where Stevie Haas's dad, Wesley, was the sole field operator.



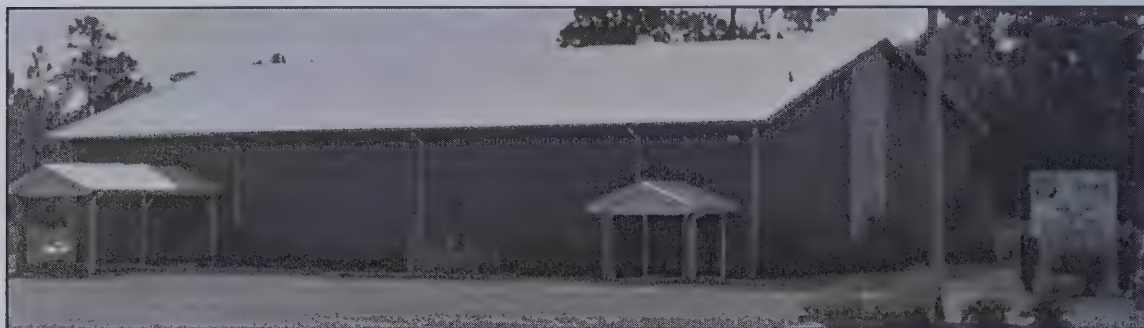
*Wesley Haas stocks his REA truck.*

## Hwy 43

At this junction, Hwy 43 departs from Hwy 603 veering southward to Picayune – first crossing I-59 and then Hwy 11.



**Faith Tabernacle Church**, located on Hwy 43 near the Hwy 603 junction is a New Testament, full-Gospel, non-denominational church.



### **Bayou Talla Fellowship**

Just a half mile further on Hwy. 43 is Bayou Talla Fellowship is a New Testament, full-Gospel, non-denominational church.



### **Hancock Recreation – Kiln Ballfield**

Return to Hwy 603 driving one half mile, – it is located on the left.

**The Kiln Ballfield** is a 20 acre park that includes a Picnic Pavilion Meeting room with restrooms, Four lighted baseball fields, batting cages, a Concession stand, and Toilets and storage.



*Google View of the four fields.*

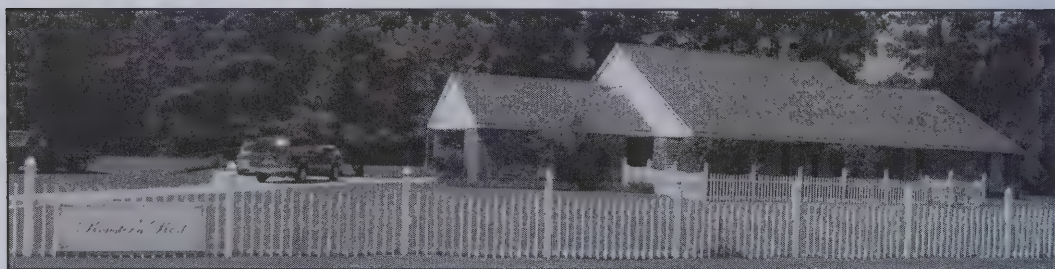
## Touring the Kiln - East

### *East on Kiln/DeLisle Road from Crossroad Traffic Light*

Driving about a quarter mile we encounter a view with the water tower rising above.



*On the Left - Dempsey's Restaurant — On the Right - Rooster's Rest residence*



*Rooster's Rest – Owner, Daphne Lott of residence on right.*



## Dempsey's

On the Left – find two businesses operated by the owner of Dempsey's.  
The Swamp Shak gift store and the Restaurant and Bar



## David's Chainsaw and Lawnmower Service

Just a bit further down the road is an interesting building which has Historic value. It is currently a small engine repairs and parts store, but it was originally a grocery store that had the Kiln postoffice attached to it.



## Formerly Curet's Grocery and Post Office

Owner George Curet, Sr. operated the Curet's Grocery for many years with only the glow of a barefaced lightbulb that was suspended from the ceiling.

It was the kind of a place that retirees would stop by on chilly

mornings to get a cigar and stand awhile by the fire to engage in conversation. On any given day a couple of the regulars would gather by the stove to pass the time.

The brick facade gave way to a lumber interior – wooden walls and floors with planks ajar and used for shelving. There were the old-timey candy show cases with tempting penny goodies that kids used to hang around for.

One of the several sons, Jimmie Curet, inherited the right to stay in the Curet house situated next door. Jimmie and his wife Lynnell were very supportive in providing stories and photographs for the first book release, but sadly they both passed away before continuing their support for this Second Edition.

Jimmie reported tales of the many haircuts he had received from his





aunt, the Postmistress of Kiln. “Aunt Hilda would haul me in to the postoffice and seat me on an old chair and start snipping at my hair while talking to the many friends who dropped by.”

### **Annunciation Chapel**

A quarter mile down the road is another Historic Landmark – it is the original Annunciation Catholic Church built in 1886.

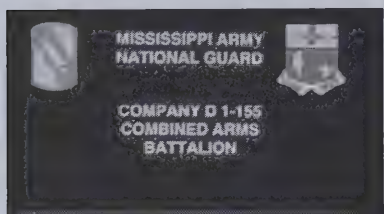
The new church was built in 2003 to accommodate the growing parish attendance and the former church is now used as a Chapel.





Driving one mile further East brings us to a cluster of three significant structures.

### **The Mississippi National Guard Armory at the Kiln**



A High Mobility Vehicle from the 1-155th Combined Arms Battalion, Mississippi Army National Guard patrols a flooded area during Hurricane season. Magnolia troops also conduct post landfall missions. Their efforts include conducting local presence patrols, static checkpoints, traffic control points and evacuating residents from flooded areas during emergencies.



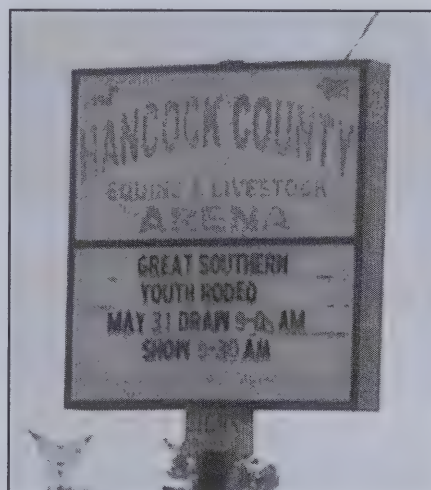
### **Located next is the Fairgrounds**

The first Hancock County Equine & Live Stock Facility Board Officers were: Johnny Richard, President; Dr. Michael Lee, Vice President; Bill Frisbie, Secretary Treasurer; and Members were: Wade Ladner, Pete Moran, Tony Necaie, Mark Shyou, and E. George Cassis, Engineer



*This photo shows the road work equipment lined up and ready to prep the land surface in 1999.*

Features include: an outdoor arena is situated on 80 acres, the covered main arena is 200 x 300, and the arena floor is 240 x 130, seating capacity approximately 2800, concession and restrooms, small meeting room, announcers stand including a powerful sound system, a lighted outside warm-up arena, 150 x 65 livestock barn with 100 stalls, wash racks, a 5/8 mile training track with a 4 horse walker, and camper hookups available to users and the local public.



The Hancock County Multi-Purpose Arena is a covered arena hosting Fairs, Rodeos, Livestock Shows, Food & Music Festivals, Barrel Racing, Team Roping, Sports Motor Cross, Dog Shows and more!



County Supervisor Howard Lizana was very instrumental in bringing about this facility, which would benefit livestock and horsemen, as well as young children.

It facilitates shows, rodeos and a wide array of Hancock County events.



Google Aerial Photo of Complex



## **The East Hancock Elementary School**

Located across the roadway from the Fairgrounds.



In 2013, the Faculty and Student Body achieved the honored **National Blue Ribbon Award**.



## **Touring West of the Cross Road**

### ***The Kiln/Picayune Road***

Since *Glass's Place* (the Cow Shed) and *Melva's Place* have remained in the hearts of so many of the older Kilnians, the Cross Road is a good place to begin our tour Westward. Even though both of the establishments are gone forever, the site locations hold fast at the crossroad where a traffic light now warns motorists of the intersection.

A generation or two has passed since families from surrounding miles would congregate on weekends to meet, hear the music, tap their toes, or raise their legs to a dance. Others played cards in the back room, some played pool, others took a sip outside of their "private stock" and the children frolicked around the yards running in and out to report back to their parents every period or so.

Also, at the Crossroad were the cows and calves that gathered each evening as they wandered in from open pastures from where they grazed. Abiding the call of their masters they were sure to find feed to make them more content.

Today, local folks still congregate at the Crossroad, or near this busy intersection while gassing-up at Dolly's or at Keith's, each of which offer convenience store shopping and fast food selections.

Any day of the week, morning 'til night, where once the cows would browse and the roosters would roost, now there is a convergence of local

young folk who drift in to meet with each other and pass the time in social gaiety.

## **The Broke Spoke**

Taking the Kiln road West toward Picayune is a well-known hangout for many of the young and old locals who drop in at the Broke Spoke.

Climbing three worn, wooden steps and entering the darkness lit only by the daylight rays from the front entrance and a few beer signs, one would then take a few strides between two pool tables to a shabby wooden bar bordered by five or six unmatched and unadorned stools of uneven heights. Upon seating and ordering a beer, the mass of assorted signs, posters, memorabilia, become distinguishable to the eye one by one. The floor is plywood and the low ceiling is cluttered with an imposing array of women's assorted underclothing. At one side of the entrance is an old wood stove which until recently was the only source of heat during winter months. Posted at one wall is a Dart Board. Even with the one air-condition unit protruding from a wall, the front door is left open for fresh air.

"The Broke Spoke" has been open for business since June of 1985, with Stevie Haas and wife Mable as owning managers. The building was an old grocery store for many years prior to its conversion to becoming the Kiln's foremost day and night spot — much like a modern sports bar found in large cities.

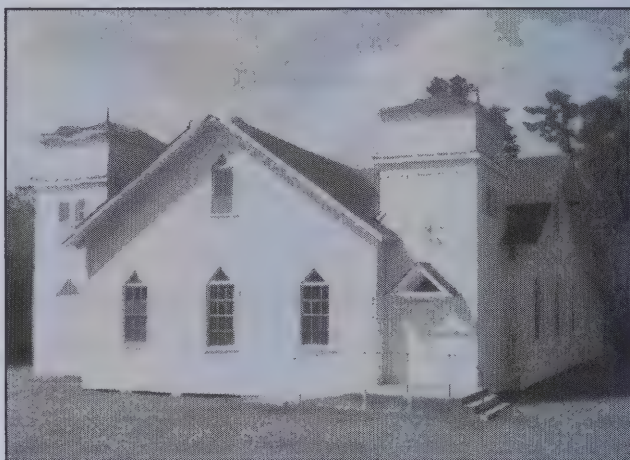




The country store was originally the Haas Grocery which was built by Orlando Haas in the 1930's. The grocery catered mostly to the neighboring Negro community selling ham hocks and mustard greens, but all the towns folk went there to buy smoked sausage, salt meats, and Cajun cooked boudin.

### **The Baptist Church**

About 300 yards further West on the Kiln/Picayune Road is the Negro Baptist Church that is well attended during hours of Service.



### **Gaits to Success**

Continuing westward for a half-mile distance is a horse ranch known as "Gaits to Success", which is a non-profit organization that offers therapeutic equestrian training for disabled individuals of all ages. As a member of the North American Riding for the Handicapped Association, volunteers utilize a team approach in designing special therapy assessment plans for each



disabled student.

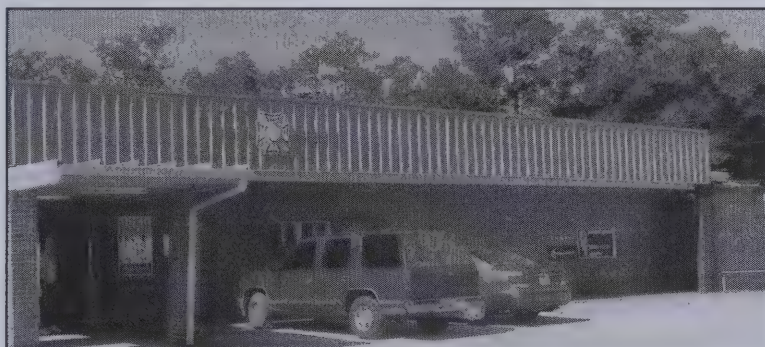
Therapeutic horseback riding is a unique approach to help people with mental, physical, emotional and learning disabilities through increasing communication and awareness.



Established in 1991 by Barbara Kaiser, a registered nurse, Gaits to Success utilizes a team approach in designing a plan of therapeutic activities for each student. The program is possible only through the consistent efforts of many dedicated volunteers who help each student achieve his or her goals by teaching horsemanship skills and assisting as side walkers and horse leaders. Gaits to Success is a non-profit (501 c3) organization and a member of NARHA (North American Riding for the Handicapped Association). They follow the guidelines of NARHA to ensure safe, effective procedures and facilities.

## **The VFW Hall**

Returning East toward the CrossRoad, we encounter the “VFW Road” that veers South to where the VFW Hall can be found.







Past Post Commanders Rafael Wright - 1969 Harold Cospelich, Cleo Dunhurst, J.C. Favre, Hugo Haas, Wally Haas, Mike Ladner, Hap Long, Louis Maloney, Paul Moody, Don Murphy, J.W. Olson, Ed Terry, Louis Rutherford.

**1998 VFW Officers were:**

Commander Louis Rutherford,  
Auxiliary Pres. Sue Richards, and  
Quartermaster Cleo Dunhurst.



*Kiln VFW memorial honors Hancock Veterans*



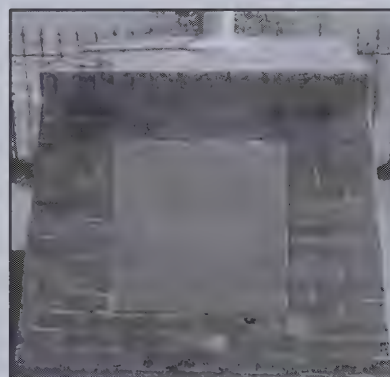
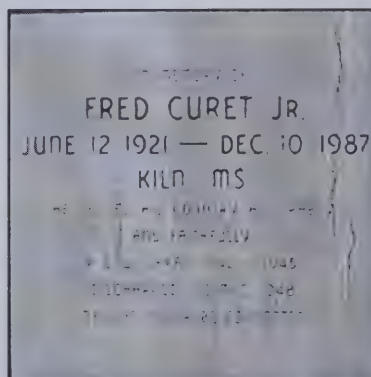
*Cleo Dunhurst and friend.*





*Ed's Classic Karaoke provides entertainment at VFW*

## Memorials at the Base of the Flag Pole



Honoring Veterans, the Deceased, and those who Donated.

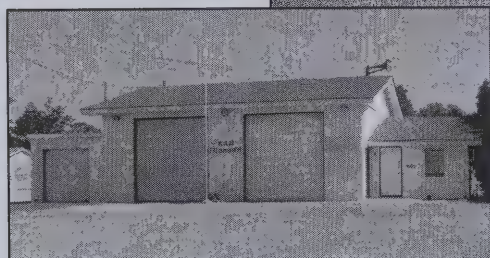
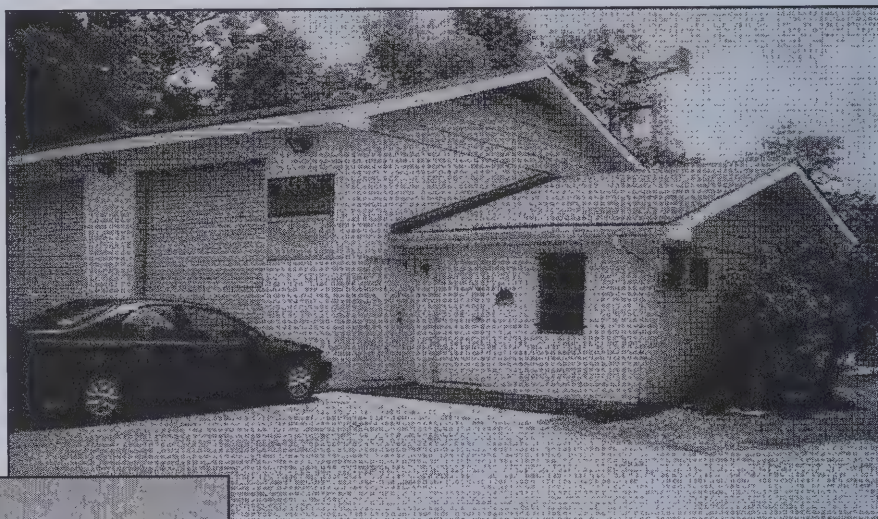
## Fire Dept Road

### Kiln Volunteer Fire Department

Located one parallel street over named Fire Department Road

Fire  
Department on  
Fire Dept Rd

Allen Spence  
was Fire Chief  
in 1998.



### Kiln Water District Water and Sewerage Office





## Kiln Annual Christmas Parade-Ride

The Kiln celebrates its Annual Christmas Parade-Ride at Noon on the Sunday before Christmas. In earlier years, Santa Claus would make his debut from Moran's Stables where he would mount one of the three decked-out trail-wagons. In the mid-to-late 90s, Parade Captain, Robert Moran, would assemble the many horse-back riders who were dressed in western and Christmas attire, wearing tattered cowboy hats.



**Big Eddie with his wife** are in the buggy with their young ones.



The traditional Santa Claus parade is staged mostly for kids — as well as grown-ups. It is the only organized horseback parade on the Gulf Coast, and is sponsored by the Kiln VFW and the volunteer riders.

The Parade Route would leave Moran's Riding Stables on the old Kiln/Picayune Road and proceed eastward to VFW Road where the riders would offer toasts to the many veteran members of the VFW. The riders continued on VFW Road to turn north at Hwy 603 going north to the Crossroad where they toasted the folks at *Dolly's* and then turn right (east) up the Kiln/Delisle Road to *Annunciation Church* where they circled the church to reenter the Road returning west to ride around the Sister Mary Ellen Circle and then continue to the Crossroad once more.

Upon crossing the highway, the parade riders then toasted at *Broke Spoke* and continued once again to end up at the VFW Hall

for a party for the kids. Along the parade route the riders pass out candies to parade watchers and at the VFW Hall the waiting and gathering children of the Kiln are greeted personally by Santa Claus who passes out toys and bags of toys while his helpers serve them punch and cookies.



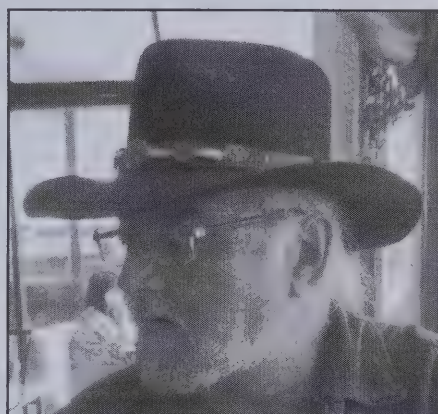
For the 1998, 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Christmas Parade, VFW Commander Louis Rutherford, having reigned the previous two years as Santa, dedicated the ride to the memory of "Big Eddie" Moran, past Parade Marshal, who had died shortly before the previous year's ride.



Southern Belles were imported for this Christmas Ride

The first Santa at the Kiln was Harold Cospelich who rode aboard the old Diamond-T fire-truck which the locals called the "Green Dinosaur."

In recent years, the route was changed a bit from above and the current organizer is Mike Henley.



*Santa gives a hug to Daphne Lott*





## Remembrances

### Cemeteries

Cemeteries tell their own stories. Some of the most historically revealing can be found in the Three Rivers area. Some have fine monuments, while others have no inscriptions or faded illegible markings. Many have been destroyed by neglect, hurricanes, overgrowth, wild animals, or by vandals. Nevertheless, cemeteries are attractive, and remain with serenity, a welcome place for visitors.



*Cemetery near McLeod Park*



The closest Catholic cemetery to the Kiln is Bayou Coco off the Kiln/DeLisle Road. There are many Family plots including Haas, Herlihy, McLeod, Cue, Curet, Favre, Necaie and more.



*Bayou Coco Cemetery*

There were also the private family owned cemeteries such as the Brennan's of New Orleans on the Kiln/DeLisle Road in addition to the Augustus and Therese Elmer Cemetery – prior owners of the Elmer's Candy company. The Mikovilje Family still maintains the 11 unnamed wooden crosses at Diamondhead.

Located in the center of the Bayou LaCroix Cemetery is an Indian cemetery bearing the burial place for members of the Choctaw tribe.

Other prominent cemeteries are found at Rotten Bayou and off Texas Flat Road.

Just 100 yards west of the McLeod Park entrance can be found one of the many small cemeteries which dot the entire area.

Fencing was a common practice which were installed as protection from rooting wild hogs and sometimes provided an enclosed area for restricted private use and meditation.

## **An Old Style Funeral**

During my initial research, I was driving along the Kiln/DeLisle Road toward the Kiln in January 1998, the traffic in front pulled off to the side of the road



onto the shoulder. I did as well. Approaching, were three slowly moving police cars with flashing lights that were the vanguard for a horse drawn wooden wagon with a casket hoisted on its bed. The driver held the reigns as Father Henry McNerny clasped his vestments and his bible.

With the quiet cadence of hoofs striking the black-top roadway, a brigade of 30 horse-back mourners, two and three abreast, were serenely mounted, dressed in black or other dark clothing.

Formed in the rear were approximately 50 automobiles with lights on that ambled past as they followed while the casket made its way to the cemetery at Rotten Bayou.

All of the halted traffic remained steadfast in an expression of condolence and courtesy that lasted at least 20 minutes. A number of those waiting joined in the procession in joining the mourners.

I later found out that Mr. Ed was quite a popular man in the Kiln.



## **Last Ride — *Ode to Big Eddy***

*by Paul E. Pignolet*

We Saddled your horse — for this  
your last ride  
All shiny and clean, like a young new  
bride  
We loaded you in the wagon, with  
hardly a sound  
With a click and a whisper, the team  
stood their ground.

The call came out, riders up, time to  
go  
So we climbed into our saddles  
Backs bowed in sorrow — heads hung low.

The wagon went first, on this bright sunny day  
With Ben and Sugarfoot, leading the way  
Their heads held low, hearts filled with pride  
For they drew the honors, on this your last ride.

We were all there — the Yankee, the Cajun, the black and the white  
For deep in our hearts we knew it was right  
Some would say you were ahead of your time  
When it came to a horseman, you drew no line.

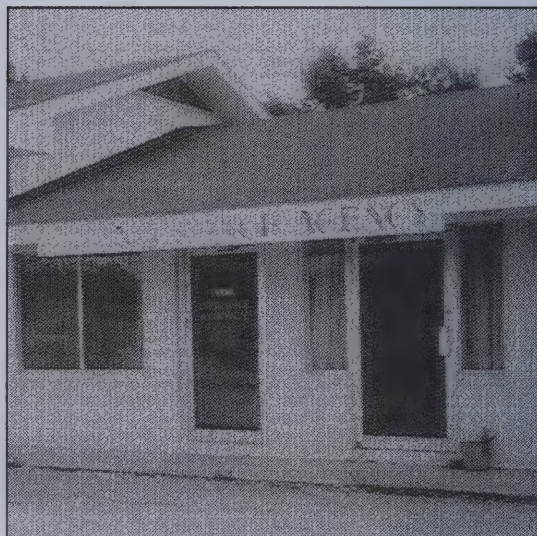
So we rode with you right down to the end  
To pay our respects, and say goodbye — Friend!



**The above photo** shows Big Eddy's horse being led by a rider. Big Eddy's boots are tied backwards in signaling a fallen rider.

## **Billie Faye Lyons**

In 1997, if you were looking for a Chamber of Commerce office, or the Tourist Information Center, I was told to head to Billie Faye Lyons Insurance Agency on Highway 603. It was located next to the liquor store just a half-mile north of the Crossroad. If Billy Faye wasn't in, she'd be right back or one of the other ladies in the office would volunteer to assist in my queries.



In reviewing her office, there were a number of pictures and copies of news releases posted on the walls that signaled local community heritage news.

She was quite proud of the Kiln and could tell a lot of stories, or if too busy, she would call another local who would give of their time to escort me somewhere or to contribute a few favorite recollections.

That's the way it is at the Kiln!





## Old Homesites and Landmarks

The original Captain Sam Favre home of 1859 was once located at the river banks near Annunciation Church. In 1950, the house was moved to the rear of the church building and according to Father Henry McNerny, "It still boasts the 10-foot high ceilings of the time, as does (also) the home of Mrs. Jessie Kane in Fenton."



*Photo courtesy of Father Henry*

Mrs. Virginia Hass McLeod, known locally as Aunt Gin, operated a store on the banks of the Jourdan River. It was located off Highway 603, complete with a vast assortment of food and merchandise for the local residents who worked at the turpentine still.

A water wheel at the Jourdan River produced electrical power for the rural area.



The Road to, Aunt Gin McLeod's Store from Kiln Road at Jourdan River – 1959  
*Photo courtesy of Mrs. Nel Ducomb*

**Photo of the McLeod Family (undated)**



## **Kiln Talk**

Peggy Haas use to have her own weekly column in the *Sea Coast Echo* called "Kiln Talk". Some of the things she wrote about in the '70s were about the Hancock Rider's Club and the new VFW Hall which opened in May 1973.

The Kiln High School was a concrete block building built in the mid-30s. It was discontinued in 1959.

In 1846, Nicholas Haas, his wife and son Francois departed from the Alcaise-Lorraine. Francois settled at the Kiln, served in the Civil War and had six children including E.N."Lash"; S.J.; and the eldest was Virginia; known as Aunt Gin – who took care of the youngest boy, Norton.





**The Haas family** were German immigrants who had made their way to America by way of France. Her mother, Evelyn Haas, is shown seated in the middle with three of her four sons standing, and her four daughters seated on each side of her. The boys from left to right are: Sam, Jeremiah, and Elijah, brother John is not shown.

The girls from left to right are: Virginia, who married McLeod; Louise, who married Polite Herlihy; the mother, Evelyn at center; next, *Edna Staub's* mother, Elizabeth, who married Andrew Lott; and last, Sidonia, who married Thophile Mauphrey.

Edna Staub reported that this family photo was taken during the early 1900s. She was Ninety-Three years old in the year 2000, and she stated that she has 51 first cousins, and that family reunions were usually held annually on her great grandmother Evelyn's birthday.

## A Report on James Munton

James Munton, my great grandfather, was an inventor of the train coupler, a train wheel process and the owner of at least three patents (I have documented three). An immigrant from Penistone, England, Munton was a tyre roller and became Supt. of the Chicago Spring and Tire in Melrose, IL.

Having completed several inventions he retired to Grand Rapids, MI to a farm he named Blythfield Farms for his birth place in Blythfield, England.

He sent my grandfather, Harvey, to Mississippi A & M to get the best agriculture education available in 1906-1907. I believe it was 1910 that he moved to Kiln and bought 900+ acres on the Jourdan River, which he named the Jourdan River Citrus farm. Today this property is known as Charlotte Farms. James Munton built two homes on the river bank that still stand today.

Charlotte Farms is located on Bayou Coco Cemetery Road.

His brother in law, James Baggott, lived with them and was an amateur photographer who took, developed, and cataloged over 400 pictures of family, friends, and the area.



*Munton Oranges*

**Patent US656824** - Automatic car-coupling.

Original Assignee, *James Munton* ... 656,824. v *Patented* Aug. ... from jumping or creeping upward while the *train* is in motion and in which also the locking block ...



**Patent US646173** - Automatic coupling for railway-cars ... Original Assignee, James Munton ... Automatic coupling for *railway*-cars. ... the car-coupler heretofore patented to me in Letters *Patent* of the United States

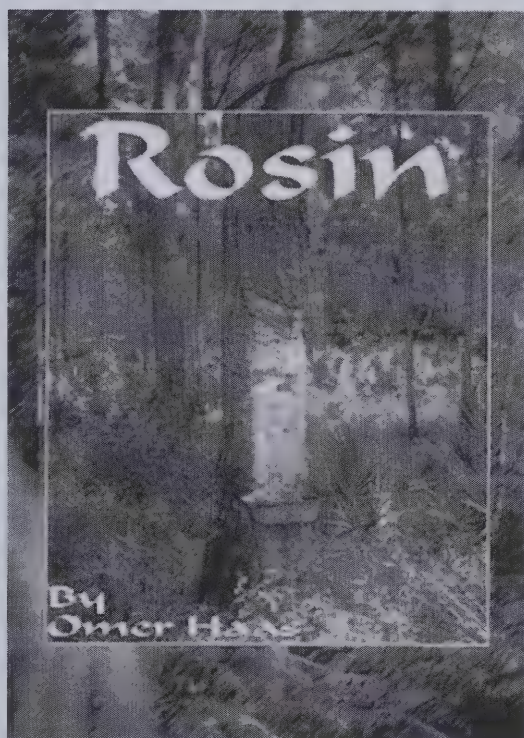
**Patent US319837** - munton - Be it known that *JAMES MUNTUN*, a subject of the Queen of Great Britain, ... endangering the car or wrecking, ...

## Rosin

A fictional novel about the history of rosin production in the South was written by Kiln resident Omer Haas. As a blending of historical fiction and agricultural information, Haas describes how Southern workers and orchard owners lived their daily lives and produced rosin from their trees.

"Rosin" follows three generations of a fictional family that is closely based on the Haas family, covering the period from 1814 to 1940.

Becoming a forester by profession, Omer Haas had been raised on a turpentine orchard, thus being closely associated with the workers who produced rosin for a living. He wrote his book when he realized that there was none previously written on the subject.



## Oldest woman in the world dies.

The oldest woman in the world dies at *Kiln*. Said to be 141 years old, she died on her 141st birthday.

“Annie Randall, a full blooded Choctaw, dies at *Kiln* - was well known - She was a subject of the Choctaw Indian Chief, *Indian Jimmie*, she migrated here from Dancing Rabbit Creek, and spent the greater part of her life in and around the vicinity of the Jourdan River.”

## Squirrel Hunts

A good Squirrel Hunt always provided great sporting entertainment for men folk. This photo depicts an 1893 string of pelts which were garnered from the Honey Island swamps.



*Fire Tower Road*





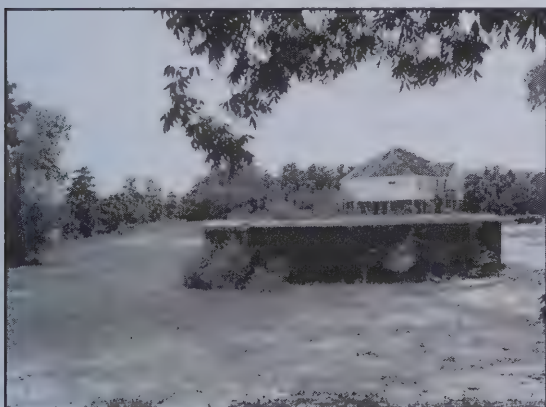
## Sam Whitfield Timber Co.

The Sam Whitfield Timber Co. was organized in 1937 after the departure of the large mills – occupying the same yard space on the banks of the Jourdan River.

The company went into dissolution around 2010. This resulted in prime real estate property becoming available for development. Many of the roadways were still in place resulting in a number of fine residences that have been constructed in recent years.



*Huge trucks replaced log hauling that many years before was performed by oxen drawn caralogs.*

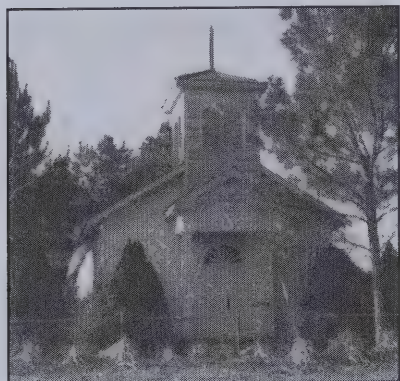


*A residence under construction in sight of the river at left and nearby the historic relic of the base of the Dry Kiln stack built in 1912 by the Hines Lumber Co.*

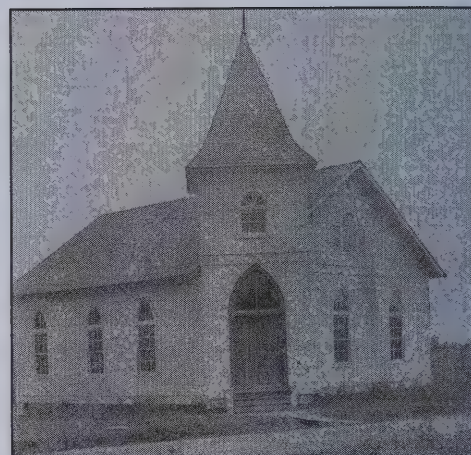


*Site of the former Largest Lumber Mill in the South is now available for large estate residences.*

## Churches and Landmarks of the area



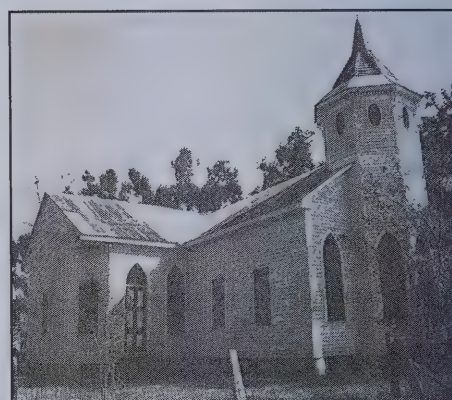
*Kiln Church*



*Kiln Baptist - 1918*



*Lakeshore Catholic*



*Pearlington Baptist*



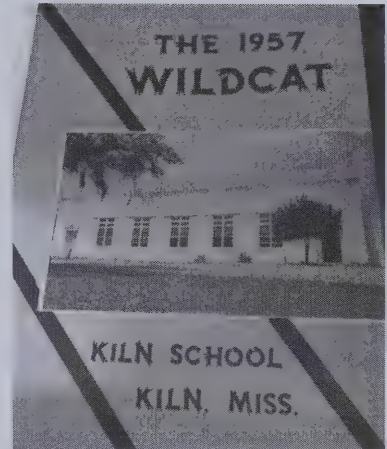
*Gainsville Home*

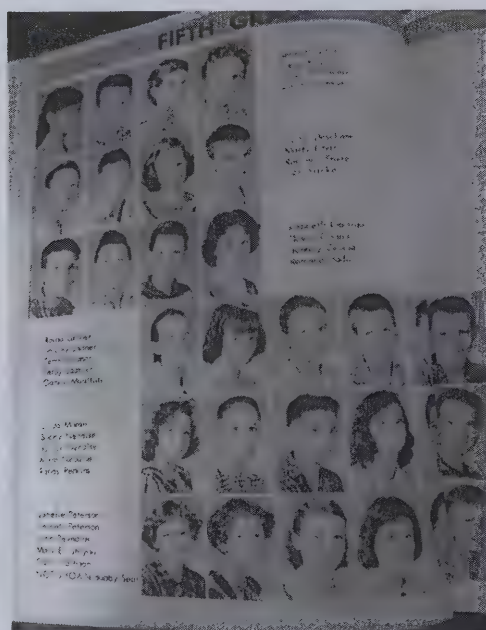
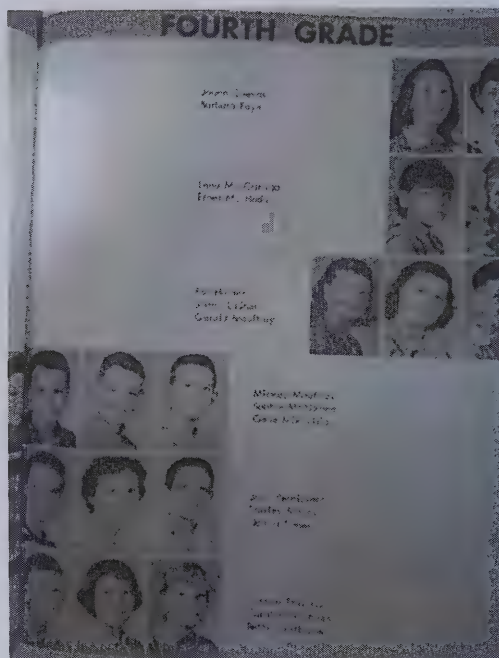
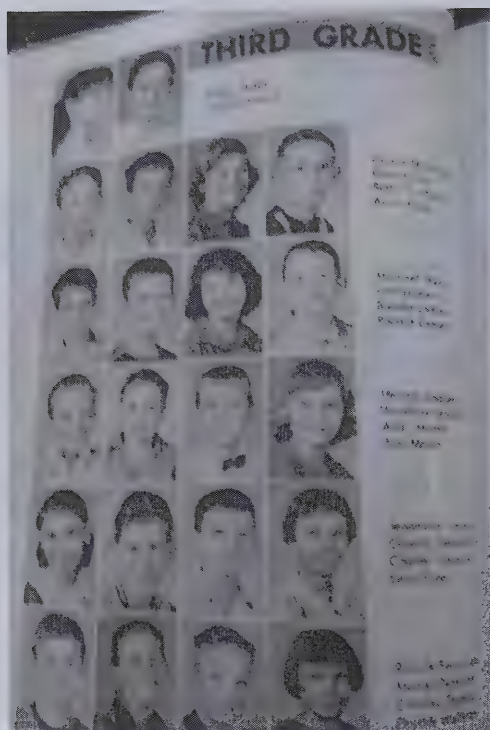


*Logtown School*



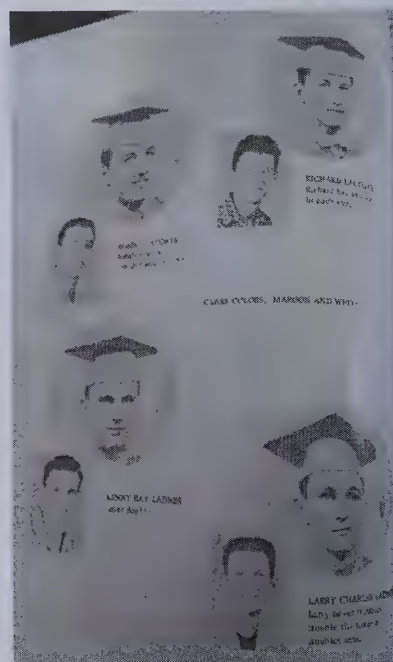
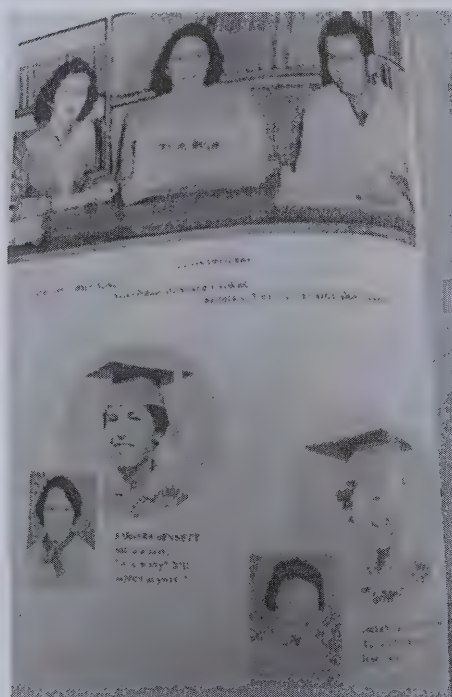
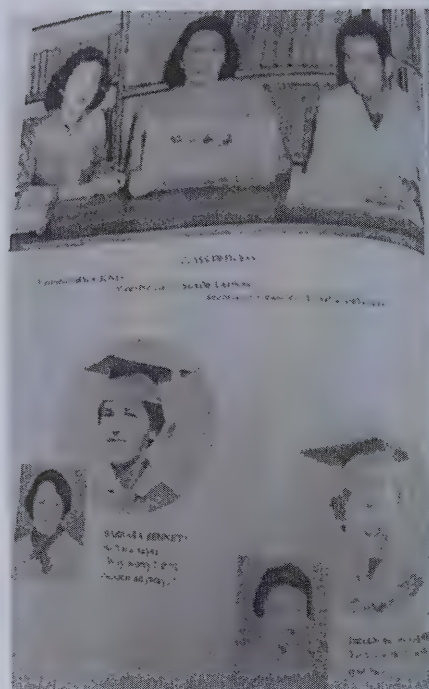
This section of History is credited to Georgie Necaise Morton for her diligence and patience in scanning one of the school albums.



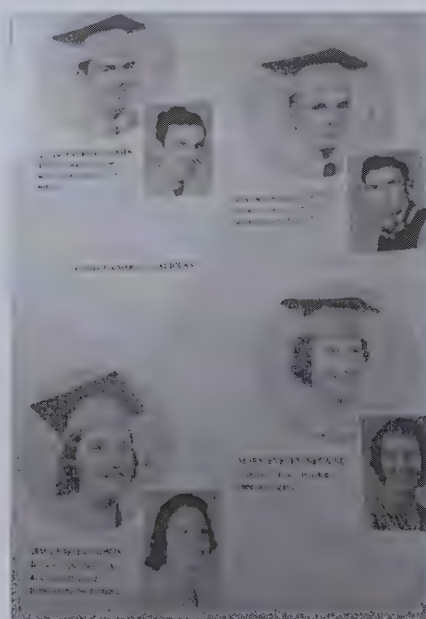
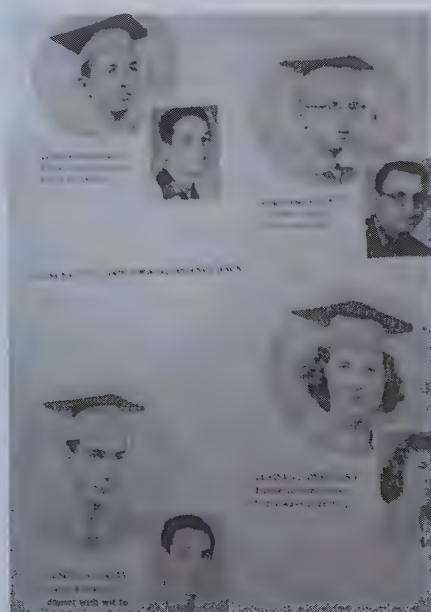
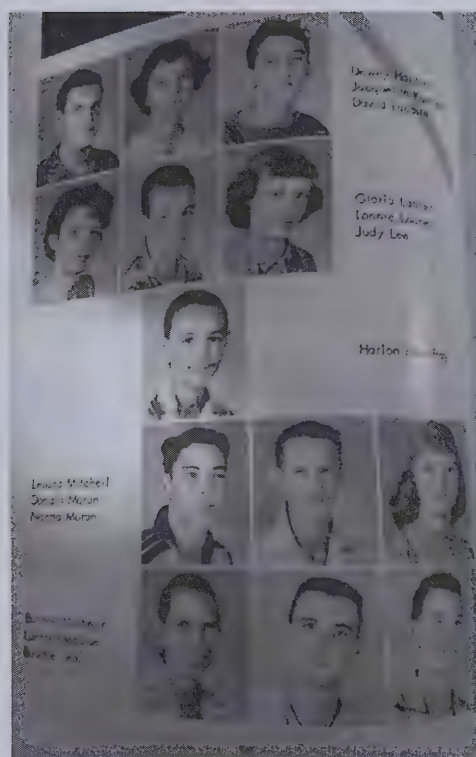
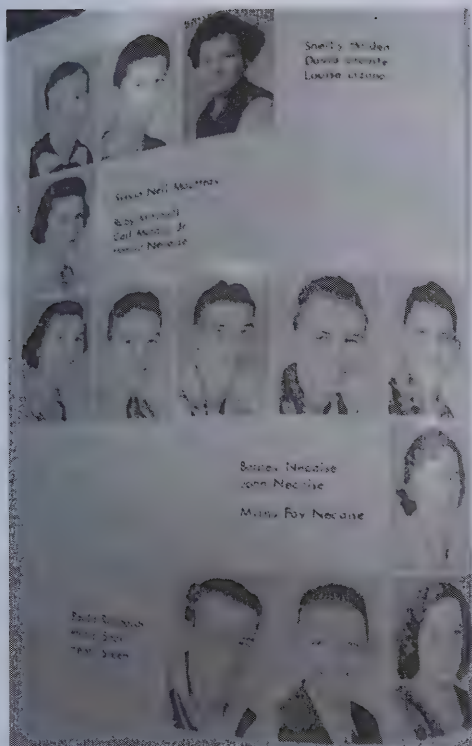




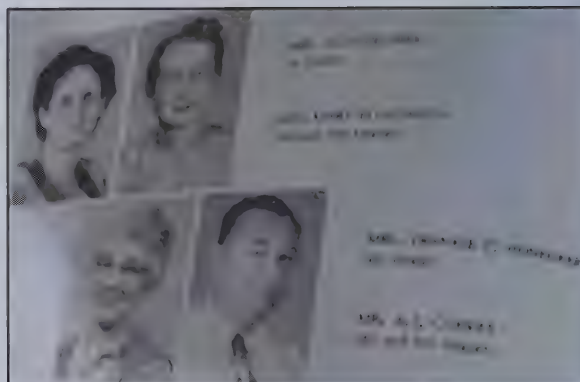




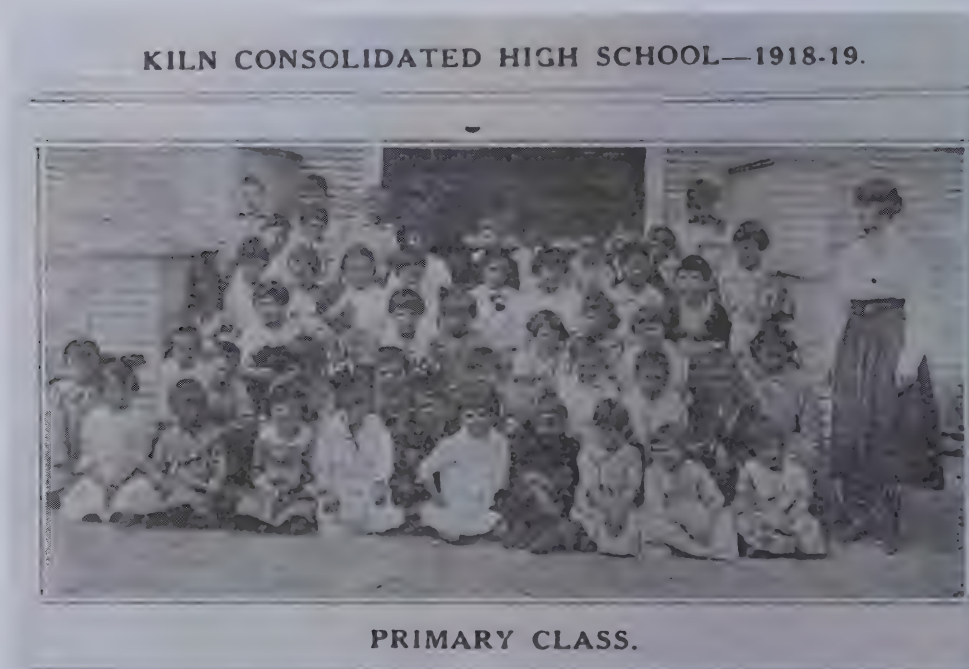




### Faculty Staff for the 1957 school year



## Earlier School Years in the Kiln







HOME SCIENCE DEPARTMENT



GIRLS' BASKET BALL TEAM—NO. 1.



*1920s – Effie Necaise Class*





Seventh grade class at temporary building near Kiln School – about 1935

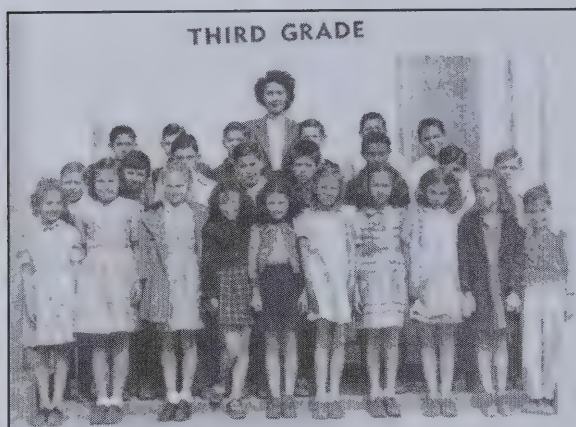


Alma Haas, Lois Gonzalez, Clifford Lizana, unknown teacher, J P. Moran, Wilmah Necaise, Isabel Necaise, Wallne Frierson, Gladys Favre, Hugh Moran, Ray Ladner, Curtis Bobinger, Bill Wolfe, Edward Hode, Russell Necaise, Buster Nelson, Gene Favre, Charles Thomas.

## 1946 Sixth Grade



Back row: Mary L. Necaise, Betty M. Moran, Mae Lott (teacher), Mable Haas, Verderine Moran  
Middle: Lavern Hoda, Donald Ladner, Dewey Hoda, Harold Banks, C.J. Necaise, Barbara Necaise, Unknown  
Front: Bonnie Wainwright, Junior Ory, Evelyn Hoda, Rita Favre, Bev Mauffray, Carol Speirs, Jeannette North, Murial Mitchell



THIRD GRADE

### THIRD GRADE

The third grade enrollment for the 1946-47 session was seventeen boys and eleven girls. Under the guidance of Mrs. Corrine Fornes they have considered this term a very successful one.

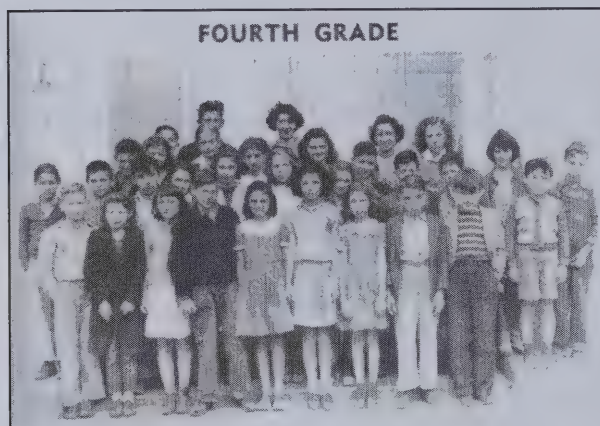
First row: Annie Mae Peterson, Bessie Lee, Elizabeth Morris, Carolyn Ladner, Myrna Raye Ladner, Rita Ladner, Robbie Gay Bobinger, Vera Holden, Sudrey Muriel Wainwright, and Alvah Banks.

Second row: Nathan Hoda, Larry Ladner, Blade Ladner, Thomas Favre, Marshall Mitchell, Roland Necaise, Walter Switzer, and Roland Cooper.

Third row: Dalton Sones, Edgar Peterson, Winfred Ladner, Jason Mauffray, Louis Garriga, and Merlin Necaise.

Fourth row: Mrs. Corrine Fornes, Teacher.

Not in picture: Eunice Necaise, Ida Banks, Marvin Ladner, and Wilbur Necaise.



FOURTH GRADE

### FOURTH GRADE

The thirty-seven pupils in the fourth grade under Miss Haas' supervision have spent a very pleasant and profitable year. Our play periods, with our new equipment, are enjoyed very much.

First row: Larry Ladner, Lorena Lafontaine, Jeannette Lacoste, Oliver Moran, Gloria Deschamp, Norma Garcia, William Deschamp, F.J. Ladner, Andy Lott, and Marvin Lacoste.

Second row: Willard Necaise, Russell Mitchell, Seymour Lacoste, Shirley J. Necaise, Margie Necaise, Billy P. Glass, Ina C. Ladner, Huey Corst, Neil Cuevas, Lorretta Necaise, and Leon Hoda.

Third row: Emmett Ladner, Joyce Holden, Oren Bounds, Nelson Nowell, Betty J. Moran, Vernon Ladner.

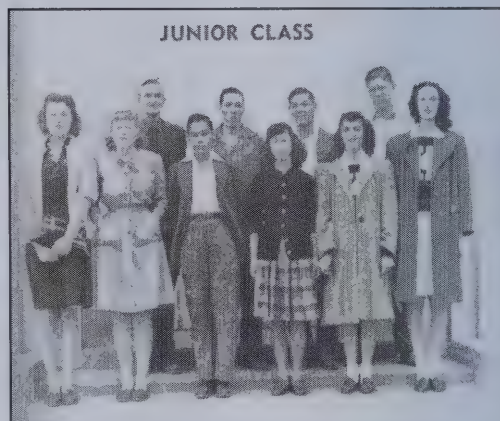
Fourth row: Jesse Necaise, Herman Necaise, Miss Haas, Teacher; Florine Ladner, and Earline Deschamp.

Those not present in picture are: Bobby Milbo, J.W. Milbo, Tony Hoda, Huey Henley, Royce Shiyon, Colena Ladner, and Bernice Necaise.

### Junior Class 1946-47 Kiln High School

**Front row:** Lois Haas, Hallie Rester, Jesse Lott, Juanita Loveless, Peggy Necaise, Charline Necaise

**Back row:** Mr. Morris, Sponsor, J.W. Olsen, Conrad Mauffray, Wesley Haas



JUNIOR CLASS





F  
O  
U  
R  
  
H  
  
C  
L  
U  
B

Front row: Margie Stiglet, Carolyn Spiers, Billy Fay Glass, Gloria Deschamp, Betty Jean Traviroa, Jeanette North, Shirley Nechaie, Vera Holden. Second row: Perlina Deschamp, Jeanette Garriga, Betty Jean Moran, Ina Elaira Ladner, Rita Traviroa, Clara Cameron, Lucille Lee, Bobbie Jean Lee, Ethel Marie Bounds. Third row: Theresa Lacoste, Vivian Deschamp, Beryl Joyce Shiyou, Jane Ann Rester, Ella Mae Hoda, Margaret Nechaie, Mrs. Favre Jane Haas, Susie Rea Lee, Lora Lee, Bobbie Jean Lee, Yvonne Lee.



F.  
  
F.  
  
A.

Front row: Earl D. Lee, Baron Lee, C.J. Lee, Webb Welborn, Albert Spiers, James Garriga, Alton Favre. Second row: James Rester, Harris Ladner, Marvin Carpenter, Jimmie Curet, Roy Cuevas, Thomas Lee. Third row: Robert Lee, J.W. Olsen, Wesley Haas, Robert Ladner, Liston Nechaie, Leroy Cuevas, Norman Hoda, and Mr. Shepard.

## More Nostalgia

**Thanks to Placide Don Nicaise** for the photos that follow in addition to the generous stream of information about the Kiln – in particular - two articles: one about the Cow Shed and the other about Melba's Place – both included in this book.



*Placide Don Nicaise*

Kiln basketball team - 1938



Unknown Lee, Herman Mitchell, Odie Hode, Emmette Garriga,  
Vincent Moran (Taw's son), Mr. McCormick (principle), Mr. Taconi (coach),  
Emmett Ladner (with ball), Mr. Shepherd, Clyde Ladner,  
Elius Depreo, Noel Ladner, Aubrey Moran, Bernard Viceroy  
Courtesy of Elius Depreo



### Kiln School around 1938



Back row: J.T. Loaner, Marvin Carpenter, Vernon Loaner, J.Y. Necaise, Rufus Cuevas,  
Ollie Moran, Herman Hoda, Leroy Lee, Sam Haas II, Ray Moran, Donald Maurray  
Front row: Bobbie Necaise, Eran Necaise, Virgie Necaise (a/o Stoney),  
Adrain Curet, Faye Cameron

Coach and Instructor standing in the rear: Jim Peterson

Courtesy of Meryl Depree Haas & Mark Davis

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March 1946



Back: Omer Haas, Jesse Lott, Larry Prince  
Middle five: Marilyn Lee, Hallie Rester, Margaret Necaise,  
Yvonne Depreo, Irene Seal  
Front four: Mary K. Ladner, Lora Lee, Lynn Nell Glass, Lois Haas  
Courtsey of Meryl Depreo Haas & Mark Davis



Kiln School Girls  
March 1946



Una Mae Ladner, Myrtis Necaise, Merte Depreo,  
Charlyne Necaise, Irene Seal, Lois Haas, Virginia Lee  
Courtsey of Meryl Depreo Haas & Mark Davis

Kiln School—Annunciation Graduation 1952



Girls: Margaret Bennett, Beverly Maumray, Betty Maude Moran,  
Barbara Nell Necaise, Mable Haas, Jeannett North,  
Mary Louise Necaise

Boys: Prather "Pete" Necaise, Donald Ladner, Dewey Hoda  
Courtesy of Meryl Depreo Haas & Mark Davis



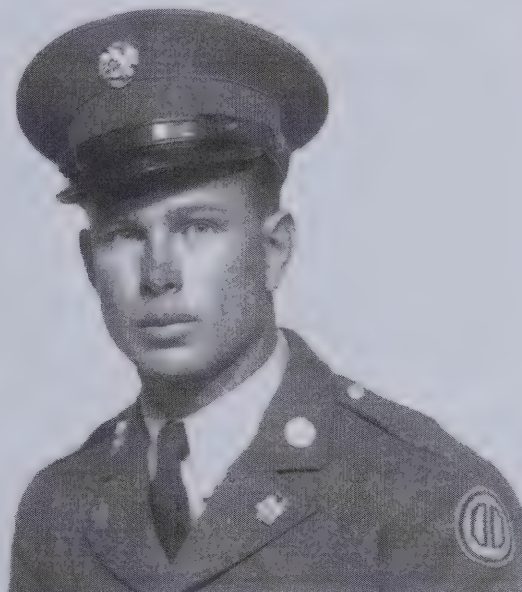
## **Memories** — *by Placide D. Nicaise*

### **Memories of Buster**

In January 2004 I got a phone call at my home in Huntsville, AL. The voice on the line said, “I don’t think you know me, but I’m Buster Nelson from the Kiln.”

After I recovered from my surprise, I surprised him by saying, “Well, I didn’t know you were still alive, but I know exactly who you are.”

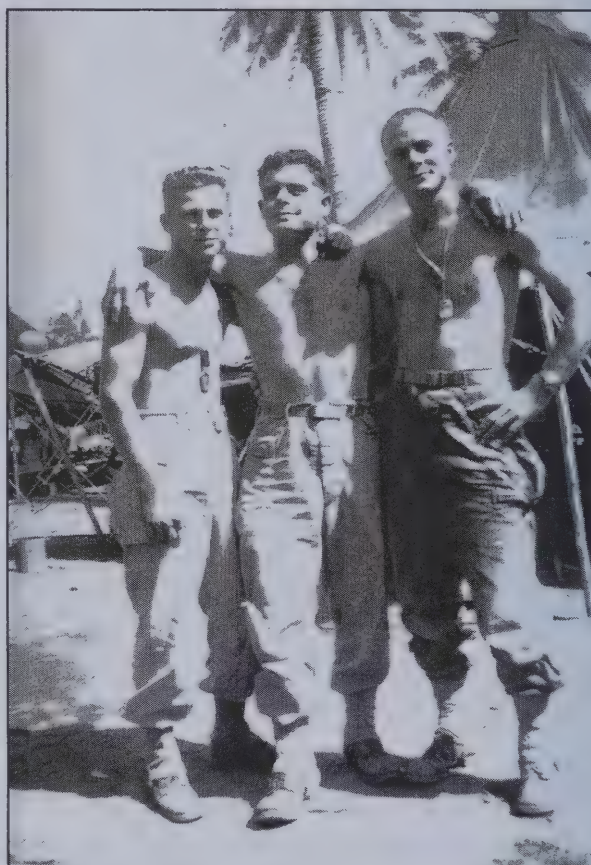
I had never met Buster because he left Kiln for a military career in 1941 when I was only six years old. He had gone to Kiln School and earned a reputation as a boxer. Buster had grown up at Bayou Talla about a mile south of the famous crossroads at Kiln. His closest friends were friends of my family. In a community as small as Kiln, I had heard plenty about Buster. Most of my relatives knew him as a personable young man. He had called me because he happened to read one of my books and figured out who I was. In a few days, he and his wife drove over to meet me.



Buster was a small man, but very lively even at that age. He and his wife, Mary, were about 80 years old and had moved up here to live near their children. He was about 12 years older than me, but I realized right away that he was a very intelligent and interesting man. He and I had a lot of people to talk about that we had known in Kiln. We would sometime meet for lunch and I once took him out to meet my former NASA boss who had earned a silver star in Korea. Buster had won a bronze star in WWII, so the two old soldiers had a lot to talk about.

Buster and I worked on genealogy together and he gave me a copy of his autobiography titled, *From Mississippi to Mindanao*. I was surprised at how well written it was, with a lot of photos of him in service. I discovered he had served in the 31<sup>st</sup> "Dixie" infantry division and trained in the Scouts and Raiders School — the Army Rangers of his day.

Buster describes one episode during his training that was incredibly dangerous. He and a fellow scout were dropped off the east coast of Florida with instruction to make their way ashore at Hollywood and then into the city of



*Sergeants – Buster Nelson, Alexander Reeves (Biloxi), Henry Trainor (Cleveland, MS) in New Guinea - 1944*



Miami to test the shore defenses. This was during the war and U.S. shore defenses were very alert and well armed. They were spotted coming ashore and were taken into custody by MP's with handguns drawn. They were put in the back of a police car with two armed MP's in front for transportation to jail. During the trip they assaulted and disarmed the officers and commandeered their car. They took the officers to a motel, rented a room and tied the officers up to the bed. They made their way to their objective in the stolen car and then called in to report where their prisoners were being held and reporting that the shore defenses were not as strong as they should be.

His unit, 155<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, was eventually assigned to fight the Japanese on New Guinea, Morotai and Mindanao in the Philippines. He had several close calls in the fighting and once when he accidentally tripped one of his own bobby traps, it set off a hand grenade within feet of him. He was involved in jungle fighting and survived many Japanese bombing raids. He was among those who hit the beach to take Morotai. Buster earned the bronze star for his fighting there.

After the war ended, Buster was shipped back to San Francisco, then on to Camp Shelby and finally back to his family at Kiln. It must have been a joyous time, but he was not home long. He soon grew restless and reenlisted in the Air Force. He served 22 years and 10 months in the Armed services. A lot of his time was spent in Hawaii where he met and married, Mary, a Japanese woman. They had two daughters together and enjoyed many happy years as man and wife.

When I met Buster he was suffering from cancer and knew his time was short. He didn't let that slow him down. We traveled around town and had a lot of fun together. He was eager to pass along information to me such as his autobiography, genealogy research and a computer file of *The Confessions of James Copeland*. He was a store house of information and he didn't intend for that information to

die with him. He was depending on me and his cousin Earnie Serpas from Biloxi to pick up the banner.

I hadn't heard from Buster in a week or two, so I called his house. His daughter told me that he was in the hospital in a coma and not expected

to live. I was shocked and saddened that I had not had a chance to say goodbye.

I dreaded getting the phone call to tell me that he had died.

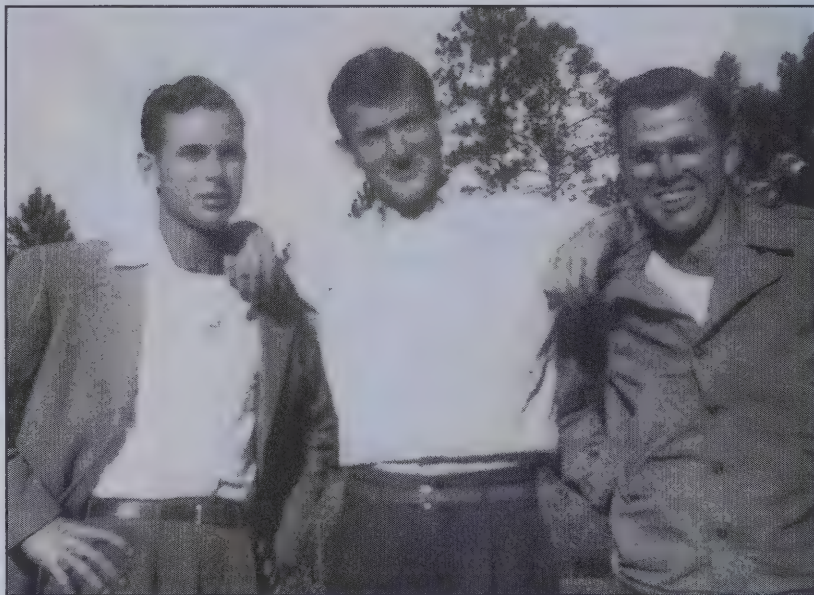
I did get a phone call the next day. I

was surprised to find that it

was Buster on the line. He had called to give me some last minute instructions on where to find more of his records.

In a few days, I got the call that I had been dreading. Virgil Edmund Nelson, age 83, died on September 1, 2006 in Madison County Alabama. A boy from Kiln had grown up to be an exceptional man who traveled all over the world in defense of his country. It was a privilege to be there to share memories of home with him in his final days.

—Placide D. Nicaise, October 2014



*Kiln friends in 1946 - Buster with Horace Lee and Barney Nelson*

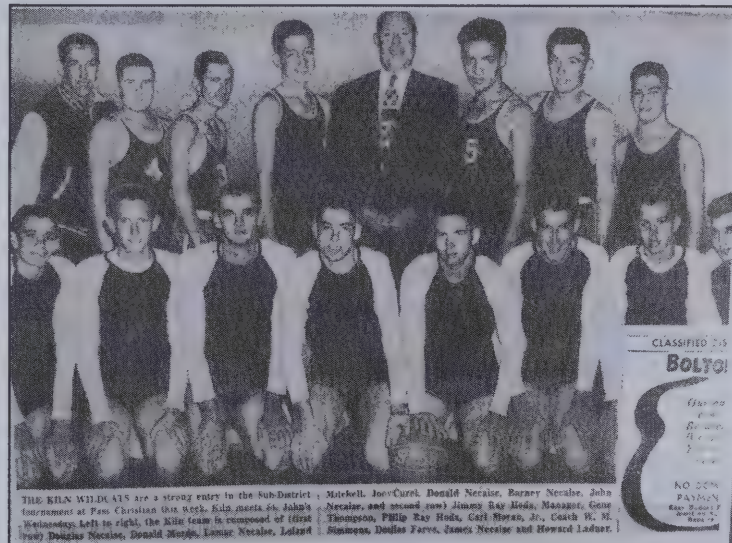


## Memories of Leland

A few weeks before I was to leave Kiln and move away for good, I was driving along the road near the old Kiln School. I saw someone walking along the roadside that I recognized as Leland Mitchell. It was 1958 and Leland was about 17 years old, but he was already tall and well built. I had known his brothers and sisters, but Leland had only been a kid of about 12 when I graduated from Kiln School.

He was walking along with his head down and a frown on his face. I pulled up beside him and said, "Hey Leland, can I give you a ride home?"

After he got in the car, he explained that he had come to the school to catch the bus for a basketball game at Pass Christian. He had been late and the bus had left without him. He was still frowning and I could tell that he was pretty upset about missing the game.



I said, "That is no problem. I'll just take you there." I did a U-turn and headed back to go down the Old Pass Road and Leland's face really lit up. I had no idea at the time that I was doing a favor for a guy who

would be one of the best athletes to ever come from Kiln—and one who would have the most tragic life.

I stayed and watched him play basketball that night and it was obvious even then that he was a phenomenal player. He and I were friends from then on and I followed his career when he went on to my old Alma Mata at Mississippi State University. He was perhaps one of the greatest basketball players they ever had.

Leland would call me when he passed through Huntsville. Phyllis and I once had dinner with him



**LELAND MITCHELL**  
Guard  
6-4 210 26  
Miss. State  
Starkville, Miss.

Strong jump-shot specialist with soft touch, good moves. Starting forward on three straight SEC championship teams at State (1961-62-63). Averaged 22 points on unbeaten frosh team (1959-60). Made All-SEC junior and senior years, made Mid-East Regional All-Tourney (1963), Look Magazine District All-America, All-Sugar Bowl Tourney two years (1961 and 1962). Averaged 13 points as soph, 16 as junior, 17 as senior. Drafted No. 2 by St. Louis Hawks (1963) and was last player to be cut from regular camp, outlasting Larry Seigfried who is now with Celtics. Lettered four years at Kiln High and senior year played junior college at Pearl River, making All-State with 15-point average.

*New Orleans Buccaneers*



*Leland and wife Mary Carolyn would often visit their Wolf and Jourdan river properties.*



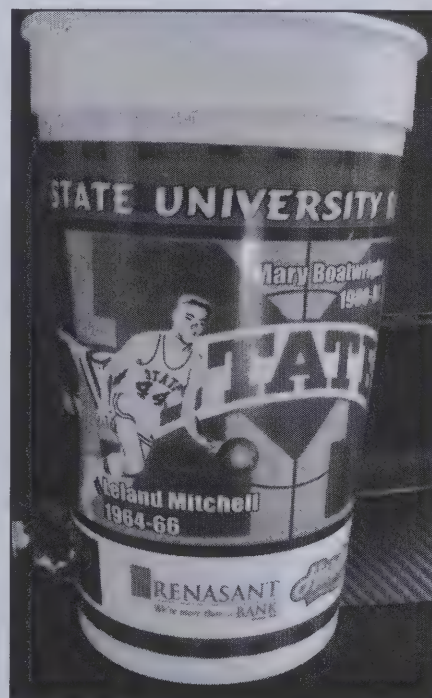
and his wife, Mary Carolyn when we were in Starkville. He had finished college by then and had become a very successful businessman. He was still very well built and surging with energy. He was still the brash, aggressive and confident man that I had known as a boy at Kiln.

I was shocked and sorrowful when I heard that he had been paralyzed in a freak accident. I called him sometime afterwards and we talked for an hour. He dismissed his problem as temporary and we talked about basketball and the Kiln.

I drove by to see Leland some years later when I was in Starkville. He had been a builder and had built himself a very impressive house in a good neighborhood. He was lying in a hospital bed in a special room that he had once built with his own hands. He could hardly move any of his body below his neck, but he struggled to shake hands with me. He was in good spirits and glad to see me. I spent more than an hour with him and left him some of my books to read. He confessed that he was not much of a reader.



*Inducted to MSU Sports Hall of Fame*



*44 on a Cup*

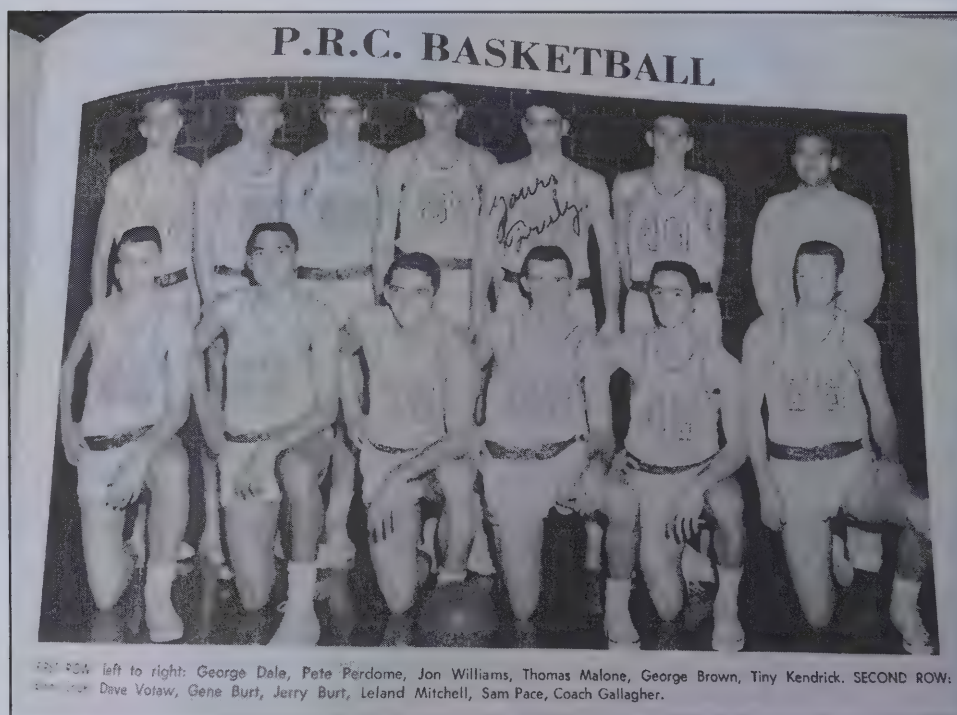
Leland was a dynamic man of action. I don't think he ever gave up the idea that he would eventually recover. His wife said that he never complained and maintained a positive outlook to the end. He was a unique man both physically and spiritually.

Leland died at age 72 without ever moving again.



*Celebrating "Leland Mitchell Day" with Leo Seal at right.*

—Placide D. Nicaise,



*Leland plays for Pearl River College*



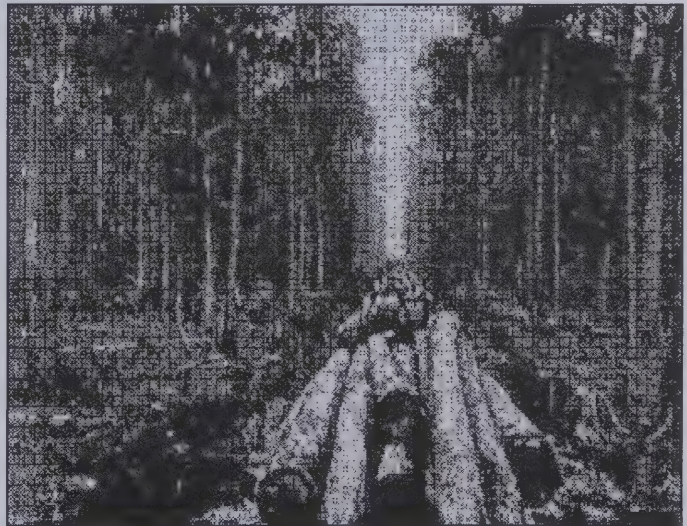
## Next Door Neighbors

### The Pearl River Communities

The Pearl River was called the *Riviere Perle* by the early French explorers in 1699. Bienville had explored the mouths of the East and Middle Pearl rivers and a group of French adventurers found pearls from oysters near the banks. These pearls were sent with Iberville's first return trip to France as proof of treasures from the new colonies. The area became one of the oldest communities on the Coast following Ocean Springs and Biloxi.

### The Lumber Mills

In a book, by Nollie W. Hickman entitled *Mississippi Harvest*, the author stated that, "By 1840 there were ten sawmills in operation in Hancock County and in that part of Hancock which became Harrison County in 1843. Because logs had to be brought to the mills by water from interior forests, and lumber shipped



to outside markets by boat, almost all of the early mills in the coast country were erected at river mouths or on the banks of bayous which extended a few miles into the interior. In Hancock County the mills were a short distance up the Pearl River from Lake Borgne. Early sawmill sites were Pearlington, Napoleon, Logtown and Gainsville, – all located on the Pearl."

Transporting lumber and its by-products from the heart of the piney woods was of utmost importance. Before rail spurs were run, oxcarts dragged or hauled the cut timber to the nearest water access. Cypress and pine logs were manufactured into lumber, staves and shingles; then shipped by schooners and brigs to the markets at New Orleans or Ship Island for export.

With developing technology, steamboats were designed with the engine, pilot house, and living quarters built as far to the stern as possible. This gave the boat 30 or 40 feet of deck space for loading lumber, as well as storage in the hold.

Eventually, the more economical tug boats were put into use with barges. In those days, barges were towed behind the tug, whereas today, barges are placed ahead of the tug, and pushed. Lumber





was shipped out of Gulfport or taken to New Orleans to be shipped to foreign countries. In 1922, the largest tow of lumber that was ever taken out of Logtown was nine barges containing a little over a million feet of lumber. This tow was handled by one tug boat, the 65-foot "*Edgar*", and was taken to Gulfport. From there the lumber products were shipped to Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Before the Civil War, the mills were smaller and the job tasks were primarily performed by slave labor. It was not unusual for the mill owners to form combines and partnerships, such as in the cases of W.J. Poitevent, D.R. Wingate, W.W. Carre, and Henry Weston.

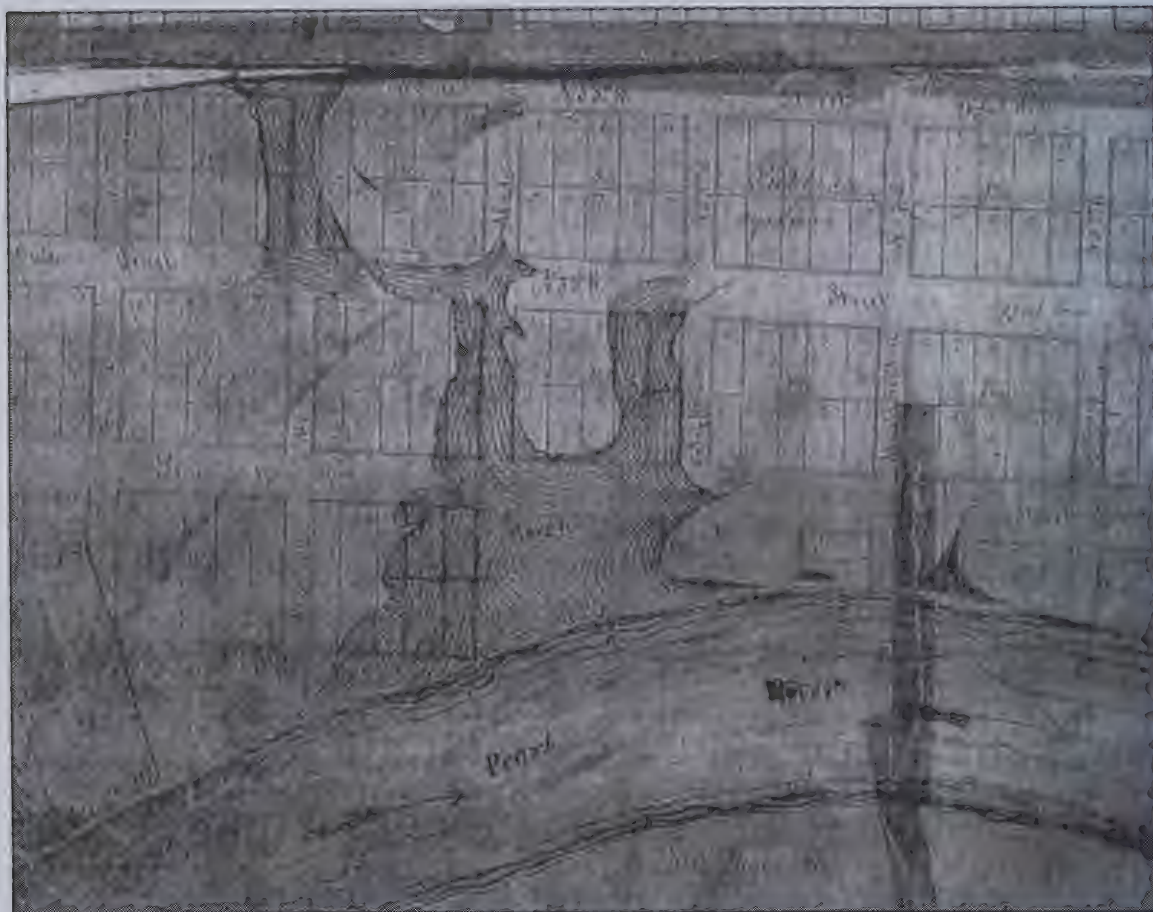
The H. Weston Lumber Company began its operation with four two masted schooners as were used before the Civil War and for a considerable time afterwards.

An article, written by Mildred Otis Fountain about the Weston Lumber Company at Logtown was reported in a 1930 edition of *The Lumber Trade Journal*. It stated that, "the production of lumber has been continuous and its distribution has been very wide. Lumber has been shipped around Cape Horn to Guayaquil and Punta Arenas, Argentina, to both East and West Africa, and to various European countries bordering on the Atlantic and Mediterranean. One shipment went by rail to San Francisco thence by water to Korea. In fact, the product of the Logtown Mills has been shipped to nearly every country in the world that imports lumber. The history of the operation is very interesting."

## **Pearlington**

Much as the name denotes, the town was named for the river along which the city was formed and laid out. It is located about nineteen miles southwest of Bay St. Louis. It was the main junction between Louisiana and Mississippi, which was accessed early by its roadway and ferry system.

That route is now called "old Highway 90." Pearlington is still a functional and historic village which is almost hidden. It was by-passed by the Interstate 10 corridor, and a northern section along with a combined population of 700 families were completely relocated and absorbed into the NASA complex.



*Pearlington's original Plat Plan  
This plat was found in the Deed Books at the Hancock County Courthouse.*



When Pearlington was laid out by the Pearlington Company, the riverfront was evidently the public wharf for docking. The Town of Pearlington still has a small public quay in front of the Gutierrez and Poitevent old locations.

## **Trip to Pearlington**

In August of 1852, Benjamin Wailes of the University of Mississippi described his two-day journey that led from the Ford house on the 31st parallel (Federal Road), and on following south along the Pearl River, he arrived at Hobolochitto (Picayune), then on to Gainesville. He then continued to Napoleon and to Pearlington, from where his route went east to Shieldsboro. There, he crossed the Bay by ferry to Pass Christian.

## **From Kin to Kaint**

When Asa Hursey, Jr. died on December 6, 1912, Ab Tourne walked from the Kiln to Pearlington to attend his funeral. Arriving at the Hursey home, he went directly to the widow and told her, "All that I am in life today I owe to your husband. He gave me my chance."

Asa Hursey, Jr. was a diligent worker. He worked from "kin to kaint" in the mill. He would work his vegetable garden past sundown to give to his neighbors; and on Sundays, his wife would say, "Papa, why don't you stay with me and the children?" His answer was, "Mama, if I don't work on Sunday, there'll be families in Pearlington go hungry next week."

The millwright in a sawmill was a most important person. It was his job to see that the mill was kept operating. If anything went wrong the millwright corrected it as quickly as possible. It was not unusual for a millwright to work all night, all the next day, and into the next night, while

making necessary repairs to keep the mill operational.

### **In his father's footsteps**

Asa Hursey, Jr. followed in the footsteps of his father. Asa Hursey, Sr. was a self-taught architect, draftsman, engineer and millwright. Asa Sr. came to Hancock County from Maine in the 1840s after having worked in a sawmill in which he was a part owner.

Like a number of other settlers at the lower reaches of the Pearl River Asa Hursey, Sr. made his way to Pearlinton as a member of a boat crew. Christian Koch and Henry Weston, also, were among those who first came to Logtown by boat. Many early settlers along the Pearl made their way up the river instead of coming across country.

Shortly after his arrival, Hursey changed the spelling of his name from Hussey to Hursey, married Miss Isabella McCall, and with Emile Mazily, they started the Hursey and Mazily Mill at Hobolochitto. This mill continued to run until December 1, 1848, when the Pearlinton Company gave Hursey and Mazily a lease on the river front to put a mill on the "public quay".

In 1849, Asa Hursey, Sr. was elected Justice of the Peace of Beat 1 District of Hancock County, and in 1852, he was appointed postmaster of the Pearlinton postoffice.

Shortly before his death in 1871, he was appointed coroner of Hancock County.

#### **Shotgun Quarantines**

The sawmills continued to operate in spite of Yellow Fever epidemics.

The State Militia were called out to prevent anyone from leaving and to keep anyone entering. This action was called the Shotgun Quarantine. Logs were still sent the river to keep the sawmills supplied.



## Young Hursey

After his father's death, young Hursey ran the family mill until it was sold to Poitevent and Favre. After Hursey, Jr. married, attending classes with his children, he learned to read and gained knowledge in engineering, drafting, and surveying. As a millwright, Asa answered the need for specific tools by designing his own devices and sending the drawings to a machine tool company in Philadelphia. They would manufacture the tool and return it to him stamped "patent applied for", — however, applying their own name. His only interest was to get the tools needed for his immediate use. However, with the vast virgin forests and increasing numbers of sawmills, those tools became universally used.

During the early history of sawmills, there wasn't much by way of fire protection, therefore, it was a common occurrence for mills to burn down. There was always combustible refuse around the mills creating a constant fire hazard. When the second Poitevent and Favre mill burned, they immediately planned a much bigger and better mill. Asa Hursey, Jr. had efficiently built both of the previous sawmills, which were good money producers. Therefore, Captain John Poitevent took Asa with him on an extended tour to all the big sawmills along the eastern seaboard. They planned to build the biggest sawmill and the best one in the world with a capacity to cut 200,000 board feet of lumber a day. After visiting mills at Mobile, the Florida coast, and the Atlantic coast as far as Maine, they selected the best features of all the mills to incorporate into their new Pearlinton mill.

With diligent planning, they built what was at that time the biggest and most efficient sawmill in the world. Hursey drew all the plans and supervised the building of the mill. Conveyors carried all slabs, sawdust and refuse automatically to the boiler rooms for use as fuel. The new mill, built to run 100 years, was called "Big Jim."

During his lifetime, Asa Hursey, Jr. was considered a kind,

thoughtful, lovable and most useful man. No one died in Pearlington, white or black, without his going to the bereaved and offering his services. Usually he would prepare the body for burial and would even go to his shop at the sawmill to make a coffin. Asa also befriended the young men by taking them into the mill to teach them a trade.

He was highly praised for his great service to his community. As treasurer of several lodges that

carried insurance policies on their members, he knew which ones paid and those who did not. In many instances he paid out of his own pocket for those unfortunates who could not. Years later, after Asa died, his widow was subsidized by Asa's former lodge brothers in redeeming past indebtedness. They paid her monies due her husband from prior unsettled accounts.

**The Piney Woods** supplied timber to European markets starting with the early French colony. After the Civil War, Mississippi lumber was shipped to Panama to be used as sheet piling in building the dams.

It was the Piney Woods that gave justification for Gulfport to be established in 1898, with the construction of the North South Railroad and the dredging of the 12 mile channel from the mile-long pier at Gulfport to Ship Island. The channel was dredged 310 feet wide and 23 feet deep when completed in 1903.

## **"Pearl Rivers"**

Eliza Jane Poitevent was born on March 11, 1849, on the banks of the Pearl River at Gainesville. Her father was Captain John Poitevent, a lumberman and steamship builder, who descended from French Huguenots. Her mother contracted a prolonged illness, which resulted in Eliza Jane being sent to live with an aunt who had no children. Under such a strong adult influence, the single, white child, living on the vast ante-bellum plantation, developed an innate creativity. Whimsical fantasies flitted through her mind while playing quietly by herself in the flower-bright yard of the "big house".

While attending the Amite Female Seminary in Louisiana, she became absorbed in a new-found ability to write verse. Her earliest poems were written by the time she reached 14 years of age.

An opportunity to practice clear and apt expression in prose seems to have been the main advantage she gained in school. Free from hindrance, the young author turned more seriously to her work. She began to use the pen name - "*Pearl Rivers*" - as a tribute to her birthplace.

Some of her earliest work was published in the "New York Journal" and "The South" to which Pearl Rivers became a regular contributor. The "New Orleans Times", the "New Orleans Daily Picayune" and occasionally a paper elsewhere, accepted her work. While visiting her grandfather in New Orleans, Pearl Rivers became acquainted with Col. Alva Morris Holbrook, owner of the "Picayune".

Colonel Holbrook knew of her ability to write prose and gave her a position as Literary Editor of the "Picayune" at \$25 a week. The following year, the 64-year old Holbrook divorced his wife and married the 23-year old Eliza. The young bride was assaulted by the betrayed wife and was shot at twice – but, fortunately for Eliza, her assailant missed.

The elderly Holbrook died a few years later, leaving the "Daily Picayune" in a state of indebtedness. Rallied by her inner strengths, Pearl Rivers assumed the role of Publisher and Editor. Relying on the support of her newspaper staff, one of whom was, George Nicholson, a part owner and long-time employee of the paper.

A few years later, George Nicholson married Elisa and because she wanted to live near her roots, they established a monumental palace as their home in Waveland.

Pearl Rivers was an inspiration to her staff and to her avid readers. She was also a major influence to other female columnists whom she introduced to the literary world.

As a staid publisher she could, on occasion, revert to the mood of vanished days and tall stories of pixies and elves, half-believed, who lived in flowers or under the shade of moss-draped trees. Yet, dreams and fancies



were only a part of her well-rounded life. She hunted for fairies and "doodles" with equal zest. "Hers was first-hand knowledge of nature. Broomstraw and pink and marigold burrs, "Spanish-needles" and "heart-leaves" were familiar friends, as well as the lily and the rose. Snails and crickets and caterpillars, "daddy-long-legs", red ants and the lowly toad, all the little creatures of the grasses and streams, were as well known as the dogs and horses that to her seemed as good as humans."



Pearl Rivers sounded her protest against the rigors of school work with the following verse.

*'March Month'*

What's the use of all this reading?  
Not a line is understood;  
I cannot keep my heart from heeding  
All the new sounds in the wood.  
Out upon you! Grim old Gibbon,  
Striving hard to make me wise;  
Scowling at me from these pages;  
Fresher knowledge round me lies.

## **Waveland**

Historically, Waveland was once a part of old Shieldsboro, now Bay St. Louis, and was approached by water as the schooners landed there. In 1888, Waveland became a separate municipality with Alfred A. Ulman as its first Mayor. The town hall was built in 1893 on land donated by Jesse P.

Coleman. During its formative periods it was also called *Grand Bend* and with the introduction of the railroad, it was also known as *Montgomery Station*. The first post office was established in October 1875, with Joseph Carrio as the Postmaster.

## **The Mail**

In 1804, President Thomas Jefferson established the coast postal service to New Orleans.

A postal rider, Isaac Briggs, reported that the 200-mile route by horse-back from Fort Stoddard, Alabama, traveling south to Mobile across the coast to New Orleans, required 25 days. He described crossing the Pascagoula river 20 miles north of its mouth in a canoe with his horse swimming behind him. From there, he would then travel southwest to Simon Favre's farm on the Pearl river where he took passage to New Orleans by schooner.

This tedious journey resulted in the establishment of the Federal Road following along the 31st parallel from Fort Stoddard to the Pearl River, then by way of a southbound fork at Ford's Fort to reach the northshore of Lake Pontchartrain.

From 1818 until 1830, mail delivery averaged 28 days from New York to New Orleans. The route went through the western country down the Mississippi River to New Orleans by way of Natchez or Baton Rouge. Then the mail was distributed by schooner or horseback to other parts along the Gulf Coast.

A more expeditious route was called for in 1830, and coast deliveries were changed via Mobile; resulting in reducing the time to two weeks the first year and afterwards even more quickly. By 1846, the mail delivery became almost certain to be daily, however, the mail was most often sent collect.

Postal renovations took place as a result of an incident of protocol in the presidential nomination of General Zachary Taylor in June 1848. Then a popular hero of the Mexican War, the Whig Convention meeting in Philadelphia, nominated Taylor to be its candidate for the Presidency of the United States.

Following the Mexican War, General Taylor lived in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. His fame caused him to receive bundles of fan mail, which, because it was sent "collect", he began to refuse payment on postage, thus sending all such unpaid mail to the dead letter office.

Unofficially, he had heard of his nomination, but when no official notice reached him, he realized that the notification had probably been sent "collect" and that the local postmaster rerouted it with the unwanted and unpaid letters to the dead letter office.

After a month lapse since his nomination, Taylor was ridiculed for not accepting his mail and the incident drew national attention for the necessity of some sort of postal reform to control the practice of sending mail "collect".

This resulted in the Postal Act of 1851, which reduced the postage rate to 3 cents on pre-paid letters, with a 5 cent charge if sent collect. By 1856, it became a requirement that all postage was pre-paid.

## **The Mail Boat**

When the Poitevent & Favre Lumber Co. began operations in Pearlington in 1867, mail was carried by horse and buggy from Bay St. Louis, over a dirt road, which was more than 20 miles distance. In 1879 the Company purchased a small steam boat to carry the mail between English Lookout, a railway station of the L & N Railroad and Gainesville, a town on the Pearl River 20 miles north of Pearlington. Captain Rod Boardman, then 21 years of age, with one faithful Negro fireman, would leave home at 4 a.m. He would end his day as late as 11 p.m., because the boat made two



round trips daily. When its whistle sounded at landing stops, almost all the population would show up to meet the Mail Boat. As time passed, the Mail Boat doubled as a passenger and freight transport, requiring larger and better boats which provided increased revenue. By 1937, with the advance of automobiles and freight trucks, a network of paved roads were built and a motorboat launch needed only to take mail to land-locked water reaches.

## Neighbors to the East

*Until 1928, the main roadway access to the Mississippi Coast from New Orleans was around the Bay of St. Louis by way of the Kiln/DeUsle Road which took 30 minutes from Waveland to Pass Christian.*

### The Fenton Community

Driving on the Kiln/DeLisle Road, the town of Fenton is located four miles east of the Kiln and situated just north of Diamondhead. The original road to Fenton was initially cut through the Jourdan River Swamp. Fenton was also an early sawmill town where logs were hauled through the swampy terrain on ox-wagons to waiting barges on the Jourdan River. Slave labor was brought in to work the timber forests.

The Fenton Turpentine Co. during its peak was producing 2500 Barrels of Spirits and 10,000 barrels of rosin – the Cuevas Mill and store operated there. — And, F. Mauffray had a large general store in the early years.

For many years, Fenton maintained a Negro settlement just east of the town which was populated solely by descendants of slaves originating from Senegal. Their forefathers were considered to have the highest mental and physical qualities of all African slaves. This resulted in their restricting intermarriages outside of their group. By controlled inbreeding, they succeeded in maintaining an unmixed bloodline for many generations.

Fenton is also famous as the birthplace of the renown poet of the Cuevas family. In 1934, Earl Cuevas was conferred with national

recognition as Poet Laureate of Mississippi by the Poet Laureate League of America in Washington D.C. Cuevas was honored for his works and attributes as a poetic genius.

Earl A. Cuevas was born at Fenton near Bayou Banishawah (Rotten Bayou), July 28, 1897, and was the oldest of nine children. His father, George Cuevas and his grandfather was Juan Cuevas of Cat Island.

### **Annunciation Celebration**

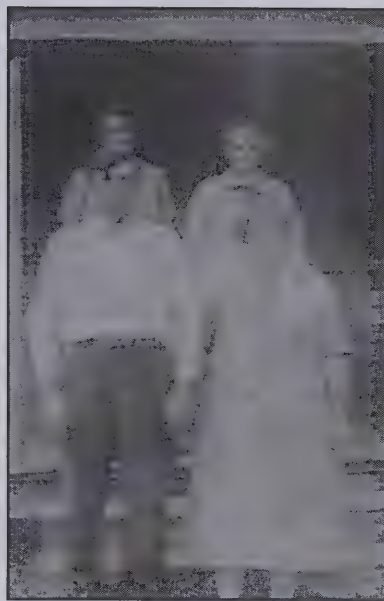
*Photo courtesies of Gaynell Blaize and Becky Moran.*

St. Joseph Mission Church of Annunciation Parish, Kiln, in Fenton Community was the site of the wedding in 1906, and Golden Wedding Anniversary in 1956, of Mr. and Mrs. Claude Mauffray of Fenton. The couple lived to celebrate their 63<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary. The Mauffrays were parents of 12 children.



*Horse owner Dazier Moran, a lifetime Fenton Community resident was the surrey driver.*





### **“The Hill” in Fenton**

Gaynell Blaize, a retired fifth grade teacher, has been helpful by contributing photos to this book. Since her retirement in 2001, she has furthered herself by having added a sno-ball stand near her home on “the Hill.”

Her Summer afternoons are spent making sno-balls for her regular customers, former students, and anyone dropping by when passing on the Kiln/DeLisle highway.





# **DIAMONDHEAD *Resort Paradise***

## ***The Diamondhead Heritage***

*As of the 2010 census - the population was 8,425.*

*In February 2012, Diamondhead was officially incorporated as a city;*

*The first lot sales began in June 1970.*

Diamondhead, Mississippi is a most unique resort and retirement community. Diamondhead provides a private setting with a Country Club life-style. Its location, elevation and overall size make it an exceptional residential community on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Its climate has an average daily temperature of 68 degrees punctuated by an average of 300 days a year of golden sunshine. Diamondhead enjoys mild weather conditions, ranging from 50 to 75 degrees in November and December. Summer breezes off the Gulf of Mexico and the Bay of St. Louis usually keep the weather in the 75 to 90 degree range. The Coastal summers provide a year-round attraction for people from all over the world.

Summertime draws many southern residents and visitors seeking a family vacation spot in a resort setting. Diamondhead provides a series of lifetime pleasures and experiences for those who want to live in paradise. Residential home-sites or select condominiums offer fun time living surrounded by fabulous facilities.

## **How it Evolved**

The original Gex acreage in Diamondhead was purchased by Walter Gex, Sr. in 1937 from the Gulf State Paper Company and the Easy Opener Bag Company. These two pieces approximated 3700 acres. Additional acreage was later accumulated which brought the acquisitions to approximately 5000 acres. This property was sold in October of 1969 to D.E.AR, Inc., an interim company representing the developer's interests before being renamed the Diamondhead Corporation.

In his law offices above the Merchant's Bank in Bay St. Louis, Jody Gex unrolled a frail parchment map with an oil cloth backing. He described that all of the "X" marks in red were the original Gex acreage. He pointed out the peripheral

boundaries indicating that the tract of land almost abutted the back of the Bay of St. Louis and bordered the Jourdan River and Rotten Bayou. It was mostly high ground requiring no residential terracing or stilted pilings, and the ten square miles were dotted by ponds and small lakes.

The **Jourdan River** was originally named St. Germain River by the French – and **Rotten Bayou** was called Baneeshewah by the Indians, and Biancois by the early French settlers.



*The Cuevas home was the first European residence in Diamondhead, during a time when Indians were still very much around. It was located on Rotten Bayou near the present residence of George Cassis at Malahini Place. The home was built in the early 1800s and destroyed by fire after 1930. (Photo Courtesy of Ames Kergosien of Bay St. Louis, a great-grandson of Cyrille Cuevas, one of the eleven children of Francois and Felicete Cuevas, for whom the Rotten Bayou Cemetery was dedicated.)*

Pulling out a sheaf of documents, Jody read the County resolution which provided the impetus for the interchange construction at the "Interchange" of Interstate 10 and Gex Boulevard. The County Road ran from the Kiln/DeLisle Road through the Gex tract which was known as Hickory Point Road.

The highest elevation at Diamondhead is at Highpoint Condos which is 105 feet above sea level. Jody responded, "That is the highest point between Corpus Christi, Texas and St. Petersburg, Florida. For this reason, the development group called the area "Diamondhead." The architectural engineers followed through with its Hawaiian derivation and naming of streets."

## **Prior Interests**

The property had almost been sold for development some ten years earlier. W.L. Holcomb with the real estate development company of Holcomb and Milner of Gulfport, was approached by Walter Gex, Sr. in 1960. Gex offered his 5200 acres for sale. Holcomb pursued the prospect by riding the hilly area on horseback. He was amazed at all the tall timber that covered the entire area.

Billy Holcomb tells the story that as he alighted from the mount, he walked a ways through a clearing and stumbled into a hole. As he was raising himself, he was confronted by a shotgun pointed at him about 30 feet away.

The man behind the gun yelled out, "What the heck ya doin' here?"

Billy replied, "I'm looking over Walter Gex's land that he wants to sell me!"



"Well, get the heck away from here right now!, stammered the man.

Needless to say, Billy Holcomb mounted his horse and steered clear of the area as he continued to survey the land. He reported to his partner that the land was very impressive for its high elevation and rolling hills. However, he felt that the cost to develop it would be astounding and would take 20 to 25 years to get their money back. The venture was too risky to pursue in light of the undetermined construction of an Interstate highway system. Needless to say, the property was sold for twice the offering.

Billy continued, "That same man came into my office about two weeks later offering me to purchase 80 acres of land around the Kiln."

The man looked at him real good and said, "Don't I know you? Weren't you riding around my *Moonshine Still* a few weeks back?"

"Yeah, and I'm sure glad you didn't bring in your shotgun this time," retorted Billy.

The man grinned. And as things went, Billy Holcomb bought the property at the Kiln.

## **The Transformation**

In every land deal there has to be a *Chief Mechanic*. Somebody has to put the package together and have the foresight and hindsight to market it to the right promoters. It was Gary Gilmore who had the inside track to put a pulse to the embryonic form which was to become Diamondhead.

These machinations date back to 1967 and 1968. Gary was a close associate of the Gex family, who at that time, were youthful inheritors of the Gex property. Walter Gex, Sr. was the mastermind to acquire the large acreage. Gary also knew Mr. Gex, Sr. whom he called "Uncle Walter". Gary came to learn the hills and the high ground turf of the Gex Property because he traversed it frequently during quail hunting trips with "Uncle Walter". While the young Walter Gex, Jr. had been practicing law in Jackson, he asked Gary to participate in selling a site portion which is the

present Texaco Station south of 1-10. Its location was excellent due to the coming Interstate 10 throughway. Once Gary sold the option to the property, he became looked on as the man who could make things happen. — And, happen they did. His connections with a principal from Greenwood, Mississippi put him in position to roll out the 5000 acres of Gex property. This is how Malcolm McLean was introduced to his future Paradise.

The Deal was set to go down on Monday, August 18, 1969, the final day of the option. However, the "deal" almost splintered apart because on the preceding day occurred the most devastating hurricane in American history. Hurricane Camille's perilous journey caused almost total destruction to much of the Coastal area. However, McLean managed to fly over the property the following week and upon seeing so little damage, his interest in renewing the option remained strong.

The only thing keeping the sale from being closed that week was due to the Storm, the Hancock Court system had been closed down to all transactions for a couple of weeks.

During the first phase of construction the Diamondhead Manufacturing Company in Mobile hired local construction crews to build the Kana and Molokai condo villages. In the next phase, the condo villages of Lanai and Lakeside, including the Fairway Motel Inn, which were pre-constructed, were transported in. Even the painted Sheetrock, carpeting and drapes were pre-installed. A special barge had been built to carry the 50' by 30' units from Mobile to be brought ashore at the Rotten Bayou landing. A customized straddle carrier moved the pre-structured units to elevated





Pods, which then allowed flatbed trucks to skate beneath, in order to move the housing units to their respective sites thereby marking the beginning of Diamondhead. The first lot sales began in June 1970.



### *About the Author*

Originally from New Orleans, in 1990, Dan Ellis established permanent residence at his Pass Christian weekend home. His interest in writing lead to publishing vignette columns in local newspapers. Upon researching for his first community heritage book, he realized that a significant amount of misinformation abounded. This resulted in his



seeking primary source information from archival records in Mobile, Alabama, Jackson, Mississippi, New Orleans, Louisiana, and from local courthouses and churches.

Ellis's books are filled with treasured photographs and maps; and he takes special effort to seek out individuals, whether obscure or prominent — those who can add a touch of personal experience by revealing anecdotal interviews.

Not being able to find a publisher, Ellis was determined to get his history books to the general public, so he learned to be a self-publisher and now distributes his history books through bookstores and gift shops and the Internet. He also publishes much information to his several web sites providing free access to information and photographs. Ellis's books are computerized in order to enable easy updating and error corrections.

He calls himself an *Historiographer and Scrutinier*, which simply translates to a "writer of history with authenticity."

His books are available through **Amazon Books** – or:

<http://gcwriters.org/ellis.html>





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Hancock County  
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*Reaching New Heights*



THE BOOK COVER SPORTS A PHOTO OF MELVA'S PLACE AND THE GLASS PLACE. AT LEFT, THE 1930S DANCE HALL CALLED THE "COW SHED" AS WAS RENAMED BY PARTYING LOCALS WHO HAD HAULED IN A CALF FROM OUTDOORS - WHICH BECAME SO FRIGHTENED - IT SCAMPERED ALL AROUND THE DANCE FLOOR.

THE COMMUNITY LOCATED 10 MILES NORTH OF BAY ST. LOUIS AND WAVELAND, ON THE GULF COAST, WAS NAMED FOR THE KILNS BUILT BY THE EARLY FRENCH SETTLERS TO PRODUCE TAR AND CHARCOAL. IN LATER YEARS, WITH THE GROWTH OF THE TIMBER INDUSTRY, THE TOWN OF KILN WAS TOUTED AS HAVING THE LARGEST LUMBERMILL AND DRYING KILN IN THE SOUTH. DURING THAT PERIOD OF THE 1900S, THERE WAS A HOSPITAL, TWO LARGE HOTELS, AND HUNDREDS OF MILL-HOUSES - NONE OF WHICH EXIST TODAY.

LATER, THE KILN, AS THE TOWN WAS COMMONLY CALLED, ENJOYED A SECOND BOOM WHEN IT BECAME KNOWN AS THE "MOONSHINE CAPITAL OF THE WORLD" DURING THE BOOT-LEGGING DAYS OF PROHIBITION. IT WAS SAID THAT AN AVERAGE OF \$4000 OF SUGAR A WEEK WAS SOLD BY A SMALL LOCAL MERCHANT. KILN LIQUOR HAD A REPUTATION FOR HIGH ALCOHOLIC PROOF AND WENT UNDER SUCH NAMES AS JOURDAN RIVER DEW, WHITE LIGHTNING, SHINNY, ETC.

THE BOOK IS LIBERALLY SPRINKLED WITH OLD AND NEW PHOTOGRAPHS AND DRAWINGS AS WELL AS NAMES THAT ARE FAMILIAR TODAY AS THEY WERE WHEN THE TOWN'S HISTORY BEGAN - FAVRE, CUEVAS, LADNER, NICAISE, MORAN, CURET AND HAAS.



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